

## General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

The provider must promote the good health of the children, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action when they are ill.

## Promoting health and hygiene

### 1.20 No-smoking, Vaping, Alcohol and Substance Misuse

#### Policy statement for St Joseph's Pre-school

At St Joseph's Pre-school we promote children's health and wellbeing and the safeguarding of children in our care. We, therefore, operate a strict no smoking, vaping, alcohol and substance misuse policy in and on the premises used by the Pre-school and in the surrounding area which is within the jurisdiction of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. This includes legal drugs and illegal substance use.

We comply with health and safety regulations and the Welfare Requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Foundation Stage (EYFS). Thus enabling us to satisfy our "Duty of Care" requirements.

This policy applies to everyone in or on the premises/vicinity of the school site, including staff, parent/carers and visitors. There are no designated smoking or vaping areas provided on the premises. Nor on the school site.

#### Procedures

All staff, parents/carers, volunteers, visitors and professionals are made aware of this policy.

- Staff: within their Statement of Employment and again during induction;
- Parent/carers: within the parent information pack sent out to new parents and again in 4.8.1 Parent/carer, Visitor & Professionals Code of Conduct which is circulated before the start of a new Pre-school year;
- Volunteers: during induction;
- Visitors & professionals: referred to in the setting's Visitor's Code that visitors/professionals are required to read when they enter the setting.

#### Smoking and vaping

It is acknowledged that smoking is defined clinically and in law, and e-cigarette use does not meet the definition in either context. However, the *EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers* specifically says:

*"Providers must not allow smoking in or on the premises when children are present or about to be present. Practitioners should not vape or use e-cigarettes when children are present."*

We have designated all the premises within the confines of the Pre-school setting a smoke free and vape free area. No one is permitted to smoke or vape at any time on St Joseph's Pre-school and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School premises or in the outdoor area, including the car park and field area.

- We display no-smoking and no-vaping signs.
- The no-smoking, vaping, alcohol and substance misuse policy is included in our parent information pack.
- Staff who smoke or vape do not do so during working hours. Unless on a break and off the premises.
- Staff who smoke or vape during their break make every effort to reduce the effect of the odour and lingering effects of passive smoking for children and colleagues, and ensure that their hands are washed before caring for any child.

At St Joseph's Pre-school we respect individuals' choice to smoke/vape. We will however provide staff and parents/carers with information about how to stop smoking and vaping if necessary<sup>1</sup>.

### **Alcohol and Substance Misuse**

Alcohol and illegal substances are not allowed on St Joseph's Pre-school's premises nor at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. If a staff member appears to be under the influence of alcohol, using illegal drugs or misusing prescription or over the counter drugs they will be told to leave the setting immediately. Disciplinary action will follow.

If a staff member is taking prescription medication or over the counter medication they must inform their line manager. The staff member must also seek advice from a medical professional as to whether the medication will impair their ability to do their job and inform their line manager accordingly.

If a staff member suspects that a parent/carer is under the influence of alcohol or misusing substances and that the safety of the child is compromised, they will follow necessary safeguarding procedures in line with our safeguarding policy.

### **Legal framework**

- The Smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006
- The Smoke-free (Signs) Regulations 2007
- Statutory Framework for the Early Foundation Stage (EYFS) (latest version)

### **Further Guidance**

- HSE: [Advice on smoking at work \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/smoking-at-work/)
- Public Health England Guidance: [Use of e-cigarettes in public places and work places](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/use-of-e-cigarettes-in-public-places-and-work-places).

### **Associated Policies and Procedures**

- 1.2 Safeguarding and Child Protection
- 2.1.1 Disciplinary
- 2.6 Staff Wellbeing
- 3.2 Health and Safety General Standards
- 4.8.1 Parent/carer, Visitor & Professionals Code of Conduct

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<sup>1</sup> See Policy 2.6 Staff Wellbeing. Particularly Healthy Lifestyles Gloucestershire ([www.hlsqglos.org](http://www.hlsqglos.org))

<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Purpose of change</b>	<b>Date</b>
1.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and page numbered	Sept 2014
2.0	Committee	Reviewed	Oct 2016
3.0	K Coupe, N Powers & H Elliott	Reviewed, updated and version controlled	01 May /2019 Committee Meeting
4.0	K Coupe	Updated in light of revised EYFS (Sept 2021). Confirmation that e-cigarettes and vaping are classed as smoking. Reference to Pre-school's "duty of care"	12 July 2021 Chair (A Hitchings)
5.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Framework references checked;</li> <li>• Addition of "Further Guidance" section; and</li> <li>• Inclusion of "Associated Policies and Procedures" section as per EY Safeguarding Audit 2023 s175/157</li> </ul>	05 Dec 2023 Committee Member (S Webb)
6.0	K Coupe	Reference to paragraphs in the Early Years Foundation Stage updated	14 Jan 2024 Committee Member (G Ind)
7.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and updated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• title change from "No-smoking" to "No Smoking, Vaping, Alcohol and Substance Misuse Policy";</li> <li>• includes more information with regards to vaping and e-cigarettes (as per Public Health England advice – hyperlink included);</li> <li>• Associated Policies and Procedures updated.</li> </ul>	14 Jan 2026 Chair (A Hitchings)