



Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery School

Smoke free and Vape free Gates Policy

Reviewed: November 2021

Reviewed: November 2023, 2025

Next Review date: November 2027

Introduction

Gorse Hall is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment. We recognise that children and young people, staff and visitors have the right to breathe Smokefree air in and around the school. We acknowledge that exposure to second-hand smoke, also known as passive smoking, increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. We know that smoking is a habit of childhood and that is why we are committed to creating a Smokefree environment and developing children and young people's knowledge, attitudes and skills in positive decision making around smoking. Gorse Hall also takes into account Public Health England (2016) 'Use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces'.

Aims

- Protect the right of children and young people, staff, parents and visitors to not be exposed to second-hand smoke.
- Improve the health of children and young people, teachers and support staff.
- Educate young people on the harms associated with smoking.
- Provide encouragement and support to smokers who wish to give up smoking.
- Reduce smoking litter around the school grounds.
- Be a healthy role model within the local community.
- We will provide a Smoke free and Vape free environment.
- We will ensure that tobacco education is part of the PSHE curriculum.
- We will adopt and support interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking amongst children and young people, staff, parents/guardians and members of the wider community.

Objectives

- We will promote Be Well Tameside to adults who need support to quit smoking.
- We will ensure that all staff promote healthy lifestyles with a positive attitude.
- We will ensure staff have the knowledge and understanding of policies, procedures and agreed practice to support the implementation of the Smoke and Vape free policy.
- We will involve all staff, governors, children and young people, parents/carers the community and other outside agencies as appropriate, in the development of policy and practice in relation to tobacco including vaping.
- We will ensure that this policy is applied when children/young people are taken off site.

Rationale

- All members of the community have the right to work and learn in a Smokefree environment.
- Exposure to second-hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.
- Exposure to role models, who smoke normalises smoking behaviour, can have a significant negative impact on the Smokefree message.
- Smoking is the biggest cause of preventable death in Greater Manchester. 4,500 people die from smoking in Greater Manchester every year - that's 13 people a day.
- Two thirds of smokers start before the age of 18. 40% start smoking regularly before the age of 16.
- Those who start smoking before the age of 16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke compared to those who begin later in life, they are more likely to be heavier smokers.
- The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater their risk of developing life-threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease if they continue smoking into adulthood.

A Smokefree space provides positive health promotion for children and young people, contributing to the development of children and young people for life.

Providing a Smokefree Environment (Procedure)

This policy applies to students, staff, parents/carers, members of the public, contractors or others working / using the premises or vehicles and all vehicles used to transport students.

Smoking or vaping is not permitted in any part of the premises and grounds including the entrance area (around the gates, the school office, staff car park, the playground, school playing fields, and school paths) or on land adjacent to the building (e.g. pavement outside and opposite school). This policy will apply equally to future premises at the construction stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.

Staff and visitors who smoke will need to do so outside of the premises and surrounding area of school. There are no designated smoking areas provided within the building or grounds.

The policy applies to all events / activities held in the premise, any meetings organised which are attended by employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.

Suitable posters, displays and signage will be displayed in areas to create a positive visual message which supports a Smokefree environment.

Smoking or vaping is not permitted in any owned/hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying students or staff on business.
Please note: this is a statutory requirement.

Schools also have a duty to reinforce the smoking legislation on buses used for pupil transport.

This policy applies when students are taken off site on excursions/ visits/ trips.

Staff and accompanying helpers will be reminded that smoking is not permitted when on duty/ looking after students.

Smoking prevention activities (Procedure)

Students are not permitted to smoke any tobacco products when in uniform or when representing in any capacity.

Employees are not permitted to smoke in the view of children and young people. Employees who do smoke will be asked to ensure they cannot be seen smoking by students (even if it is off the grounds).

Tobacco education is part of the PSHE curriculum (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use) which may be delivered across the curriculum (biology, chemistry, citizenship, geography, mathematics and media studies).

The school supports tobacco education through the transition phase from primary to secondary school.

Parents/carers are encouraged and supported to be actively involved in their child's tobacco education through home/school activities etc.

Responding to smoking related incidents

The following procedures will apply when there is non-compliance with the Smokefree policy:

Staff: The Disciplinary Procedure will be followed for members of staff who do not comply with the Smokefree policy. The staff member will be offered support to help them quit smoking.

Non-staff members/ visitors: Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the policy.

Assistance for those who smoke

Be Well Tameside is a free service to all residents and people who work in Tameside which offers free specialist advice and support on how to quit smoking. Be Well Tameside offers:

- 1-2-1 appointments
- Regular contact and support to help you achieve your goals
- Practical tips
- Information about local groups in your area
- Help to access other services locally, such as mental health, debt, housing, volunteering and employment.

Be Well Tameside can help staff, parents/carers and any other adults or young people who would like help to quit smoking.

Call Be Well Tameside on 0161 716 2000, or email bewelltameside@nhs.net for FREE support and advice to quit smoking.

For young people: The Health Mentors and School Nurses are available to provide young people with advice and support around smoking, providing both cessation and prevention to allow young people to make an informed decision about smoking. Be Well Tameside is also available to children and young people.

The school will promote these services regularly within the venue and through parent/guardian newsletters or on the website etc.

Other linked policies

- PSHE Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Relational Inclusion Behaviour Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Equality Statement Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Volunteers Code of Conduct
- Disciplinary Policy

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed and developed in consultation with the community upon renewal. It will be widely publicised (staff induction, staff and volunteer code of conduct, handbook, website, notice boards). The policy will be monitored by the Head teacher to ensure compliance and its successful implementation.

The policy will be reviewed every three years and ratified by the Governing Body.