



# Moorlands Primary School



## “Anything is Possible!” No-Smoking Policy

To be read in conjunction with the policies on Drugs, Health and Safety and PSHE and RSE policy

### Introduction

We know that smoking is very harmful to health so we do all we can to educate children about the dangers of smoking and what they should do to develop a healthy lifestyle. We strongly discourage our children from smoking. Consequently, the school is a non-smoking establishment and smoking and vaping is not allowed anywhere on the school premises.

Research shows that almost a quarter of all young people are regular smokers by the age of 15. Almost all adult smokers took up the habit when they were children. About 450 children a day take up the habit, and they can become addicted within days, from just one or two cigarettes. Smoking is regarded by the medical profession as the major cause of many illnesses. It is estimated that approximately 120,000 smokers a year die in the UK because of their smoking habit. Children can be harmed by passive smoking, i.e. by inhaling smoke from other people's cigarettes. Seventy per cent of children are exposed to other people's smoke when they go out, and 34 per cent are exposed to smoke in their own homes. It is known that smoking is harmful to the unborn babies of mothers who smoke.

For all these reasons, our school does all it can to discourage children from smoking and vaping, and to educate them in such a way that they adopt a healthy lifestyle.

### Aims and objectives

We aim to:

- help children know and understand the dangers of smoking, and the harmful effects that smoking can have on their bodies;
- provide children with the knowledge and information necessary for them to make responsible choices in relation to smoking and vaping;
- equip children with the social skills that enable them to resist the pressure to smoke or vape, either from their peer group, or from society in general.

### Curriculum Organisation

The dangers of smoking are taught as part of the jigsaw curriculum, pupils in Key Stage 2 begin to learn about the facts about smoking and vaping and the impact it can have on your health and well-being. This also includes working with external agencies such as DECCA who provide workshops to pupils in Years 5 or 6.

However, all teachers will take all appropriate opportunities as they arise to reinforce our view that smoking is harmful and should be avoided. As well as teaching the children about the effects that smoking and vaping has on the body, we engage them in discussions about the reasons why people start to smoke and vape, and what they themselves should do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes or vapes.

The children's class teacher leads all such discussions in a sensitive manner. Teachers encourage the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking and vaping. We explain that it is illegal for cigarettes to be sold to people under 18 years of age, but our aim is for children to refrain from smoking.

The dangers of smoking sometimes arise as an issue in science lessons at Key Stage 2, when children learn about the way substances affect the body. When such an issue arises, class teachers deal with it in context, and answer the children's questions to the best of their ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided.

Parents and carers may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school.

### **Adults**

We do not allow smoking/ vaping on any part of the school site, including the staffroom. If any members of staff, volunteer helpers or contract staff working on site wish to smoke, they must leave the school site.

Should any member of staff be found smoking/ vaping on the school premises in contravention of this policy, we would consider this a serious breach of the terms of employment.

### **Monitoring and review**

It is the role of the head teacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented.

Every three years, or sooner if necessary, the governors review this policy.