

Milford Haven School
Ysgol Gyfun Aberdaugleddau



Milford Haven School

Anti-smoking

Policy

Date approved by Policy Committee: 14/12/23

Date to be reviewed: December 2025

Policy created and reviewed by: DHT for Inclusion and Ethos

Rationale:

On March 1st a landmark law, the first in the UK was introduced meaning that all hospital, school, public playgrounds and the outdoor areas of day-care and child-minding settings in Wales are required to be smoke-free. The law is being introduced to protect the public's health, both by aiming to discourage people from starting smoking in the first place and to support those trying to quit. By introducing smoke-free legislation, it is hoped to protect more people from being exposed to harmful second-hand smoke and reduce the chances of children starting smoking. Anyone found breaking the law could face a fine of up to £100.

Milford Haven School regards itself as a health-promoting organisation, and as such seeks to:

- protect the children, staff and visitors from the effects of smoke from cigarettes or vapes.
- provide a healthy environment for employees and students.
- acknowledge the educational role of the organisation in discouraging children and young people from starting to smoke.
- provide a positive role model in relation to smoking, which is consistent with the taught curriculum.

Milford Haven School is a non-smoking site. This policy identifies how the school will continue to maintain a smoke free environment within the school premises for the benefit of pupils, staff, visitors, parents & carers as well as members of the public. The use of e-cigarettes and vaping is considered to be the same as smoking, therefore will be treated in the same manner as smoking.

The school will continue to encourage and support students to stop smoking through PSE programmes, Just B Smoke Free programme, the Youth Worker support and the work of our school-based nurse.

Passive smoking is a health and safety issue for all individuals within the school. Children and young people are more susceptible than adults to the effects of passive smoking. 17,000 children under the age of five are admitted to hospital every year in the UK as a result of breathing second hand smoke. Associated illnesses include bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma and other respiratory problems.

Policy Strategy

The school is designated a no-smoking site and everyone involved with the school community is expected to adhere to the Anti-smoking Policy. Those groups are:

- All staff
- Student Teachers
- Pupils
- Voluntary helpers
- Governors
- Visitors
- Contractors working on site
- Individuals using the leisure facilities
- Individuals attending an outside letting
- Individuals attending a social event

In accordance with the Schools Anti-smoking Policy, the following will apply:

Pupils

- Pupils are not allowed to smoke or vape at school or whilst engaged in any off-site activity.
- Pupils are not allowed to smoke or vape near the school site
- Pupils should not smoke or vape whilst travelling to or from school.

Pupils are actively encouraged not to smoke. Pupils are made aware of the legislation prohibiting smoking and vaping in public places and that they should not smoke or vape on or near the school premises or on the school buses.

Staff

- Staff are recognised `role models` and as such are required not to smoke or vape in sight of pupils. This will include visits, school excursions etc and include all staff
- This will also apply to employees whilst exercising direct responsibility for pupils on off-site activities, e.g. in the school mini-bus, school sporting fixtures etc.

Visitors

- The Anti-smoking Policy applies to all visitors to the school including suppliers, supply or temporary staff and contractors.

Parents and Carers

- It will be requested that Parents and Carers adhere to the Anti-Smoking Policy and refrain from smoking or vaping on the school grounds.

Events

- The Anti-smoking policy applies to all social events. Where events are booked by outside agencies, all parties are to be made aware of the Anti-smoking policy

Pupils who are found smoking or vaping on, or near the school site

Any pupil found smoking or vaping on, or near, the school premises will be sanctioned appropriately, in conjunction with the Positive Engagement Policy. Parents/Carers will be informed. Pupils who are found smoking or vaping on or near the school site will also be offered further advice/support from the school-based nurse, Youth Worker or from Barod.

Power to Search pupils

As a school we follow the DfES guidance: Screening, searching and confiscation July 2022. School is not required to have formal written consent from the pupil for a search – it is enough for the teacher to ask the pupil to turn out his or her pockets or if the teacher can look in the pupil's bag and for the pupil to agree.

Banned items include:

- Illegal drugs
- Stolen items
- Tobacco/cigarettes (all nicotine products including e-cigarettes) and cigarette papers and matches and lighters
- Legal high/weed
- Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used:
 - i) to commit an offence,
 - ii) to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil)

If a member of staff suspects a pupil has a banned item in his/her possession, they can instruct the pupil to turn out their pockets or bag and if the pupil refuses, the teacher can apply an appropriate sanction.

Any confiscated cigarettes, e-cigarettes, matches, lighters etc. will be disposed of or given to the police. It is also important to remember that any smoking on Pembrokeshire County Council sites is prohibited.

Education

Milford Haven School educates pupils about the consequences and dangers of smoking, where issues of peer pressure and smoking are also considered by pupils. The issues surrounding the use of drugs and substance misuse are further reinforced, building upon the understanding gained from year 7 with reference to other drugs for example, alcohol. In this way smoking and vaping is referred back to and the issues around health and risk factors associated with this drug are reinforced throughout pupils' school careers.

Smoking Cessation Programme

Milford Haven School understands that alongside any sanctions for smoking, pupils also require support if they wish to manage their addiction during the day or even give up smoking altogether. The Smoking Cessation programme is run by NHS Wales, Smoking Cessation Wales and Pembrokeshire Youth Service. A consultation will take place where each pupil will receive an individual assessment. After the initial assessment, the pupil may be given a prescription for Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) such as lozenges, gum, nicotine patches or Nicorette Inhalator. These are kept secure and issued by the Youth Worker on a weekly basis with clear instructions on when and how to use the prescribed nicotine replacement. Parents/carers must give permission for their child to participate in this programme.

PSE

Pupils are taught specific units about tobacco and other drugs. They learn what tobacco contains and the problems and risks associated with smoking. They also consider attitudes towards smoking and peer pressure. Programmes such as discussing legal and illegal drugs and the impact on healthy lifestyles are also taught and agencies are invited in to support the delivery of these sessions, whether in assemblies, PSE lessons or PSE Enrichment days. Initiatives such as the 'Just B Smoke Free' run by NHS Wales are also followed and pupils are encouraged to consider the financial implications of smoking, allowing pupils to make informed choices.

Science

During science lessons, pupils learn about the respiratory system and the impact smoking has on the human body. They also learn about the impact of passive smoking and look at the chemicals contained in tobacco smoke and their effect on the human body.

Physical Education

During Physical Education sessions throughout key stage 3 the pupils learn about the impact of an unhealthy lifestyle including smoking and substance misuse. The GCSE course in Physical education encourages pupils to think about smoking in terms of athletes and how it could hinder their performance. It also discusses 'Drugs in Sports' and the impact upon health.

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually.

Useful Website / Helplines

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/document/110905>

<http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/smoking/Pages/Teensmokersquit.aspx>

<http://www.ash.org.uk/>

Anti-Smoking Help line 0800 169 0169

NHS Anti-Smoking line 0800 022 4 332