



Smoking Policy

May 2026

1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 The School recognises the significant health risks of nicotine and tobacco. The School disapproves of smoking in any context or environment and takes very seriously its duty to educate and protect the children and adults of the School community from the effects of smoking – both active and passive.
- 1.2 The use of tobacco and nicotine is very damaging to individuals therefore St Chris has established important guidelines and rules in these areas.
- 1.3 Smoking in this policy refers to and covers traditional cigarettes, e-cigarettes and nicotine pods.
- 1.4 Smoking or vaping by pupils is not allowed at St Christopher School. Smoking (or the possession of smoking materials) by pupils is not allowed either in School, in the local environs or in any other place where that pupil could be linked to, or associated with, the School.
- 1.5 A pupil is in breach of the smoking rules if any of the following apply:
 - 1.5.1 Being seen with a cigarette (lit or unlit) or vape/e-cigarette.
 - 1.5.2 Being seen to discard a cigarette (lit or unlit).
 - 1.5.3 Possession of a tobacco product or paraphernalia.
 - 1.5.4 Smelling of cigarettes or nicotine.
- 1.6 St Chris values the importance of promoting pupils' self-esteem and emotional wellbeing. St Chris encourages pupils to recognise the importance of pursuing a healthy lifestyle and keeping themselves and others safe. This policy endeavours to reflect these values.
- 1.7 Whilst the health and wellbeing of pupils is the primary importance, additional factors include the danger of starting a fire within school buildings, physical damage, smell, mess, and the effect on the reputation of everyone in the school community.
- 1.8 We invite parents, carers and guardians to play their part in discouraging young people from smoking; and will work with them to safeguard and support pupils.
- 1.9 The procedures we are currently using to discourage smoking are as follows:
 - 1.9.1 **Education** - especially within the PSHE and pastoral areas of the school; a focus on the effects and damage of smoking.



1.9.2 **Counselling/Cessation Support** - from the School Nurse (and other specialist staff /agencies with the appropriate expertise) for those wishing to quit smoking. The School can offer pupils a smoking cessation programme which may involve the controlled and supervised use of nicotine replacement therapies.

1.9.3 **Sanctions** - as described in the following section.

2. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS:

2.1 The consequences for a pupil of the School caught in breach of the smoking rules (on school grounds or on a school trip) will be automatic suspension.

2.1.1 First occasion: one-day external suspension and meeting with Pastoral Lead and/or Head of Year.

2.1.2 Second occasion: two-day external suspension and a meeting with the Head of Senior School.

2.1.3 Third occasion: will result in further suspension and a meeting with the Head which may result in permanent exclusion from the School.

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3.1 It is the expectation of the School that parents spend time (at the start of the school year) talking their child through this policy, to ensure that they fully understand its contents and the implications if they transgress.

3.2 Smoking in public buildings in England is illegal and carries a heavy fine.

3.3 The legal age to buy cigarettes and nicotine devices is 18 years old.

Responsible and Accountable Persons	Name	Position
Responsible	Alistair Phillips	Assistant Head (Pastoral)
Accountable	Rich Jones	Head
Date Policy Approved	May 2025	
Review Period	Three yearly	
Review Date	May 2028	

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Previous version	December 2022	Alistair Phillips	Policy Archive Folder