

General Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

No-smoking

Policy statement

We are committed to providing a healthy, safe and smoke-free and vape-free environment for all children, families, staff and visitors. Smoking, vaping, e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products are not permitted anywhere on the setting premises, indoors or outdoors, at any time. This policy supports children's health and wellbeing and reflects the EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers effective 1 September 2026, the Health Act 2006 and associated smoke-free regulations, the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026, and current London Borough of Bromley public-health arrangements.

We maintain a clear culture of promoting children's health and modelling positive behaviour. The EYFS requires providers not to allow smoking in or on the premises when children are present or about to be present, and states that practitioners should not vape or use e-cigarettes when children are present. Ready Steady Grow applies the stronger setting rule above: no smoking or vaping anywhere on its premises at any time.

The Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 is now part of the legal framework. Its provisions include powers to designate additional smoke-free and vape-free places, but relevant Part 7 measures require commencement and/or secondary regulations. This policy does not treat proposed future outdoor restrictions as already in force.

Procedures

Smoke-Free Premises

- The setting applies a smoke-free and vape-free rule to all areas under its control, including the building, outdoor learning areas, staff areas, entrances, exits and any setting-controlled parking or grounds. This is our setting policy even where vaping or smoking in a particular outdoor space is not currently prohibited by national smoke-free law.
- No-smoking signs are displayed where required by law. We also display clear no-vaping notices as part of our setting policy. Any future statutory signage requirements introduced under the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 will be implemented when they come into force.

Expectations of Staff, Students and Volunteers

- All staff, volunteers, students and contractors are made aware of this policy during induction and through ongoing supervision.
- Staff, students and volunteers must not smoke, vape or use heated tobacco products while caring for or supervising children. During an authorised break they may only do so completely away from the setting premises and away from children, families and entrances, in accordance with workplace rules.

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- Staff must not smoke or vape while wearing the setting uniform or any identifiable staff lanyards. Uniforms must be covered if staff leave the premises to smoke on breaks.
- Staff who smoke or vape off-site during breaks must wash their hands before resuming work and take reasonable steps to avoid exposing children to smoke, vapour or residue on clothing. Where clothing is noticeably contaminated by smoke, an outer layer should be changed or covered before direct care of children.
- E-cigarettes, refillable or disposable vapes, heated tobacco products and similar nicotine-delivery devices must not be used on the premises. Devices, e-liquids, nicotine products, tobacco, matches and lighters brought by adults must be stored securely and completely inaccessible to children.
- Smoking, vaping or using heated tobacco products is not permitted in any setting-owned or setting-used vehicle while transporting children. Staff also comply with all statutory smoke-free vehicle requirements.

Expectations of Parents and Visitors

- Parents, carers and visitors are reminded of our smoke-free and vape-free policy on admission, in newsletters and through signs displayed at the entrance.
- Anyone arriving on site smoking, vaping or using a heated tobacco product will be asked to stop before entering and to move completely away from the setting premises and entrances.

Safeguarding and Role-Modelling

- Staff recognise that smoking and vaping around children sets a negative example and may influence children's future health behaviours.
- Any discussion of smoking or vaping with children is age-appropriate, factual and focused on health and safety; adults must never normalise, promote or encourage tobacco or vaping use.
- Children must never have access to cigarettes, tobacco, vapes, e-liquids, nicotine products, heated tobacco products, matches or lighters. Nicotine-containing liquids can be harmful if swallowed or exposed to skin, so any accidental exposure is treated as an emergency and appropriate medical/poisons advice is sought.

5. Compliance and Disciplinary Action

Nicotine exposure and safeguarding

If a child is suspected to have swallowed e-liquid, nicotine or tobacco, or has significant skin/eye exposure, staff follow first-aid procedures, seek urgent medical advice and call 999 for severe symptoms. Parents/carers are informed and the incident is recorded. Any concern about unsafe storage, repeated exposure or neglect is referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead under the Child Protection Policy.

- All staff must follow this policy. Failing to comply may result in disciplinary action, in line with the setting's disciplinary procedures.

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- Breaches involving visitors or parents will be addressed immediately, respectfully and in line with safeguarding procedures.
- Smoking in a place that is legally smoke-free is a criminal offence. Vaping is additionally prohibited throughout this setting by policy. The Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 creates powers for further smoke-free and vape-free regulations; the setting will update its arrangements when relevant secondary legislation comes into force.

6. Education and Health Promotion

- Wherever appropriate, we promote healthy lifestyles and positive choices through activities, discussions and curriculum opportunities.
- Staff and families who wish to stop smoking can be signposted to SmokeFree Bromley, the London Borough of Bromley's free local stop-smoking service, and NHS support. Current Bromley contact details include 0808 281 5933 and smokefreebromley@cgl.org.uk.

Legal framework

- The Smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006
- The Smoke-free (Signs) Regulations 2012
- Health Act 2006

Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 (including powers relating to smoke-free and vape-free places; relevant provisions apply as commenced and supported by regulations)

Children and Families Act 2014 - smoke-free private vehicles carrying children, where applicable
London Borough of Bromley - SmokeFree Bromley stop-smoking support

Policy updated: September 2026

Next scheduled review: September 2027, or sooner if EYFS requirements, smoke-free/vape-free regulations or local guidance change.

- EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (DfE, effective 1 September 2026)