Anti-Smoking Policy

Abbotsholme School operates a non-smoking school site. This applies to cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vaping. It is against the law to purchase cigarettes or vaping equipment under the age of eighteen. It is contrary to the Abbotsholme ethos to smoke, vape or to use any form of electronic cigarette.

It is our intention to:

- discourage pupils from taking up smoking
- make it difficult for pupils to smoke or vape
- provide medical advice and support to assist those who do smoke to discontinue the habit.

There is also a disciplinary deterrent. The anti-smoking procedure involves:

- Guidance: Pupils receive preventative health education (including content during PSHE lessons) covering the risks of smoking to deter pupils from smoking cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vaping.
- Support: Pupils are encouraged and supported to give up smoking. Pupils are informed that confidential advice about giving up is available from the School Health Centre.
- Disciplinary sanctions.

Smoking within a building may directly affect the lives of others and is treated as a very serious offence. Sanctions will involve an automatic suspension and possible expulsion from Abbotsholme. Pupils smoking in the company of pupils significantly younger than themselves or found supplying cigarettes, e-cigarettes or vaping equipment to others are likely to be sanctioned more severely.

General Procedure

Level One

If a pupil is suspected of smoking, or is caught smoking for the first time, the following will result:

- The pupil will be interviewed by the Head of School (day pupils and boarders).
- Parents will be informed by telephone call. This will be made by the pupil to admit the offence; reinforced by the Head of School. This will be followed up with a letter from the school.
- The consequences of being caught smoking or vaping on the school site may include external suspension.
- If a pupil is found to be in possession of cigarettes or vaping paraphernalia this may result in external suspension.
- The Head of School will inform the Health Centre and the Acting Assistant Head Pastoral.

- The pupil will be warned of the dangers of smoking, reminded of the school policy and advised to seek health advice regarding smoking cessation from the Health Centre within three days.
- The Health Centre staff will then inform the Head of School and Acting Assistant Head Pastoral when the pupil has attended where required.

Level Two

If a pupil is caught smoking or vaping again, or if there is strong evidence to suggest that they have been smoking again, the matter will be reported to the Head of School and the following steps will be taken:

- The Head of School will speak to the Health Centre and notify the Acting Assistant Head Pastoral.
- The pupil will be sanctioned by the Head of School. If a pupil is on a programme of smoking cessation support, the pupil may not be disciplined. However, they may be sanctioned for breaking other school rules e.g. being in an area that is out of bounds, leaving a boarding house without permission etc.
- The Head of School will send a letter to parents informing them of the incident and outlining the possible sanctions for the repeated smoking or vaping.
- A longer period of suspension may be used at this point, depending on the individual case.
- If a pupil has provided smoking or vaping paraphernalia to others to allow them to smoke or vape, this may result in a longer suspension.

Level Three

If a pupil is caught smoking or vaping on further occasions, or if the pupil is considered by the Health Centre to not be responding to support and guidance, the matter will be managed by the Acting Assistant Head Pastoral and the following steps will be taken:

- Parents will be notified by letter with an explanation that further instances will be punishable by suspension or exclusion or other appropriate consequences.
- Parents will be asked to come into school to discuss the situation and help work out a way forward.
- Persistent offending may result in expulsion.