



Our Mission Statement – the reason our College exists

“Learning & Growing in the Light of the Gospel”

With Christ at the centre of our learning, we:

- *Help young people to achieve their greatest potential*
- *Guide their intellectual growth, nurture their God-given talents, and inspire them to live in service to others*
- *Aim to develop honest, confident, responsible and compassionate members of society, based on the educational values of Blessed Antonio Rosmini*

Our Vision Statement – the long-term change resulting from our work

‘Encouraging Big Ideas’

Ratcliffe’s unique educational offering based on our College motto, “Legis Plenitudo Charitas”, Love is the fulfilment of the Law, provides a perfect context within which young people may acquire the emotional knowledge and interpersonal skills necessary to live happy and purposeful lives. The College’s inclusive Catholic ethos is complemented by the outstanding quality of our College community through which our Mission, “Learning and Growing in the Light of the Gospel”, serves to nurture resilience and develop maturity. Young people leave Ratcliffe with a strong sense of who they are and their purpose in the world, equipped socially, emotionally, morally and spiritually to go forth and make a difference to the communities in which they live and work.

SMOKING AND VAPING POLICY

This policy has been written for all three sections of the School

Author: James Rainer	Receiver: All staff
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Rationale

The risks to health posed by smoking tobacco and using nicotine products have long been established. There may also be an attendant risk of starting a fire. Visitors to the site are informed that the College is a non-smoking and vape-free environment. Staff are only allowed to smoke or vape in designated areas of the campus away from the school buildings.

As a school, we believe that it is our responsibility to do all we reasonably can to deter our students from starting, or continuing, a potentially addictive habit. Smoking, vaping, or the possession of cigarettes or e-cigarettes or any associated paraphernalia (including, but not limited to, vape liquids or refills; lighters, rolling papers and filters; chargers for vaping devices; packaging) or other nicotine-based products, such as nicopods and snus, by students is therefore forbidden on the school campus, on school buses and on any school trip or activity involving time spent away from the campus. We also forbid the use of any nicotine-free vaping device.

Education and Awareness

The school brings the risks of nicotine to the attention of students in the following ways:

- For each year group, as part of the structured PSHCE programme: material appropriate to their age is presented to students, with the opportunity for subsequent discussions in tutor groups.
- For students in Science classes: the topic is raised several times in Key Stage 3 and 4 courses.
- For all students: medical staff ensure that health promotion posters concerning smoking are prominently posted. Literature and other advice is freely available to any student who seeks help via an appointment with a doctor or member of the nursing staff.

Monitoring and Enforcement

Regular staff supervision patrols and CCTV coverage supports the College in the enforcement of this policy.

Support for Students and Families

Support for students who are addicted to nicotine is available through the Medical Department at any time.

Students found to have contravened this policy and their parents/guardians will also be signposted to support from their GP and the NHS, although they may also be offered the opportunity to work with the Medical Department to support their attempts to overcome nicotine dependency. Students may also be supported by regular meetings with the pastoral

staff to help them break the habit, whilst the School Counsellor and the Student Wellbeing Coordinator are available to help students who require more acute support.

Parents are engaged with through the Parent Café programme, and any parents/guardians of students found to have been using nicotine are actively encouraged to support the College in discouraging nicotine-use. Where a nicotine dependency is identified, parents/guardians will be signposted to support through their GP and other NHS sources. If considered appropriate, the College may arrange a nicotine-cessation workshop or arrange for students to join a similar workshop arranged by a local NHS provider.

Sanctions

In cases where students are found smoking or in possession of cigarettes or vapes, including any associated paraphernalia or other nicotine-based products, the response from the school seeks to meet three aims:

1. To provide a deterrent to the student and to others.
2. To persuade the student not to smoke, vape or use nicotine-based products in the future.
3. In line with the College's Positive Behaviour and Relationships policies in the Preparatory and Senior Schools, to be educative as well as punitive. This is particularly to support the student in their efforts not to smoke, vape or use nicotine-based products in the future.

Action taken is as follows:

First offence	Letter home to parents. Phone call to parents to discuss the problem, and to suggest sources of help for the student. Student put in Saturday detention.
Second offence	Student suspended from school. Letter home to parents, outlined any planned further educative or sanction-based response, and that any further infringement may lead to exclusion from the school with a loss of fees already paid.
Subsequent offences	As 'Third Offence' with longer period of suspension or requirement to leave the school, with a loss of fees already paid.

In cases where a student's smoking results in a significant risk of fire, the health and safety of other members of the school community are jeopardised. We view this as an even more serious misdemeanour and immediate suspension from the school may ensue.

Those found in the company of smokers will be treated as smokers and are likely to be dealt with in the same way. Those found in the company of those vaping or using another nicotine product may also be dealt with in the same way.

Supply or Distribution of Nicotine-based Products

In cases a student is found to have supplied cigarettes, vapes or nicotine-based products such as nicopods, or to have intended to supply, in school or during any school-activity, we view this as a serious misdemeanour and immediate suspension from the school may ensue.

Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Deputy Head Pastoral