



Smoking and Vaping Policy

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requires that smoking is not permitted in or on the premises. York Childcare (YC) operates a strict no-smoking and no-vaping policy across all settings.

This policy applies to:

- Cigarettes
- Cigars
- Pipes
- Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes)
- Vapes and vaping devices
- Any other nicotine delivery products

In line with safer sleep guidance, staff must ensure that they minimise any risk of exposing babies and young children to smoke, vape aerosol or nicotine residues before caring for children, particularly when settling babies to sleep.

Staff Expectations

Staff who choose to smoke or vape are asked to be considerate of the children they care for and their colleagues.

For reasons of hygiene, health, safeguarding and professional image, staff must not smoke or vape whilst wearing their work uniform, even if the uniform is covered. This includes when travelling to and from work.

Smoking or Vaping During Breaks

If staff wish to smoke or vape during a lunch break or authorised break, they must:

- Change their outer clothing after smoking or vaping.
- Move well away from the nursery, club or office building and not smoke or vape near entrances, exits, windows, outdoor play areas or any areas used by children.
- Wash their hands thoroughly before returning to work.
- Consider using mouthwash or brushing teeth where possible to minimise smoke odour.
- Ensure any outer clothing worn whilst smoking or vaping is removed before resuming duties.



Safer Sleep Requirements

To support best practice in safer sleep:

- Staff who have smoked or vaped should avoid settling or supervising babies for sleep immediately after smoking or vaping whenever reasonably possible.
- Where reasonably practicable, a period of at least 30 minutes should elapse between smoking or vaping and settling a baby to sleep.
- Staff must always follow the setting's Safer Sleep Policy and risk reduction measures.
- Managers should make reasonable arrangements to ensure safer sleep practices can be maintained across the setting.