



## Smoking & Vaping Policy Saplings Nature School September 2024

### ***Rationale***

Under the [Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act](#) and [Regulation](#), owners, managers or lessees, are responsible for ensuring that their public and work places comply with the requirements for creating a tobacco and vapour free environment. All public and private kindergarten to Grade 12 schools in B.C. are tobacco and vape-free under the [Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act](#) and [Regulation](#).

### ***Policy***

This ban applies to all staff, students, parents, visitors, and community members; extends to all school property 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, regardless of whether or not school is in session; and applies to staff at all outdoor classroom areas or adjacent sites while students are in attendance.

The ceremonial use of tobacco is exempted from the ban on tobacco use in schools if the ceremonial use is pre-approved by the school board and it is performed in relation to a traditional aboriginal activity.

### ***Responsibilities of staff***

Staff are required to take reasonable steps to prevent people from smoking/vaping within the six metre buffer zone on their property. They are not required to enforce the law on public property such as outdoor classroom areas or trails, unless the person is within the control of the school (such as a parent, volunteer or visitor) or is one of Saplings' employees.

Should a staff member witness another staff member smoking or vaping within eye sight of the students, whether or not they are on a break, they should report this to the Head of School or Program Director.

If a student has witnessed a staff member smoking or vaping, this should be shared with parents to mitigate any negative responses or parental concerns.

### ***What are the penalties for contravening this policy?***

Violations of smoke and vapour free legislation could result in a fine for the school and/or person smoking or vaping. For more information about enforcement and penalties, visit [Enforcement](#).

Staff who have been smoking or vaping during their shift or in front of attending students will be called in for immediate discipline with the Head of School or Program Director which may result in termination.