GEMS TINEY HOME NURSERY

HOME FROM HOME CHILDCARE

Smoking and Vaping Policy

Purpose and setting rule

Gems tiney Home Nursery maintains a smoke-free and vape-free childcare environment. Our setting rule prohibits smoking and vaping on the premises, including the garden and childcare outdoor areas, at all times. It applies to Gemma, assistants, household members, parents, visitors and contractors.

Entrances outings and vehicles

Smoking or vaping is not permitted at the setting's entrance or handover area. We ask people nearby not to expose children or allow smoke or vapour to drift into childcare areas. Children are moved away from exposure encountered outside the premises.

Adults accompanying nursery outings must not smoke or vape while responsible for or alongside the children. Vehicles used for childcare journeys are smoke-free and vape-free. It is illegal to smoke in a vehicle with a person under 18 present, subject to the law's scope; our setting rule also prohibits vaping during childcare journeys.

Staff practice and safe storage

Adults do not smoke or vape while providing childcare. Any permitted break arrangements must maintain supervision and ratios and take place away from the premises and children. Staff must not represent the nursery while smoking or vaping in branded clothing.

Before resuming care after smoking elsewhere, adults wash hands and address contaminated outer clothing to minimise exposure to smoke residue. Removing a smell is not treated as proof that exposure has been eliminated. Safe sleep areas and bedding remain free of smoke contamination.

Cigarettes, tobacco, lighters, matches, vapes, liquids, nicotine products and batteries are kept secure and out of children's reach. Used items and charging equipment must not create poisoning, choking, fire or electrical risks. Vapes are not left charging unattended in childcare areas.

Nicotine replacement and support

Appropriate nicotine replacement such as prescribed or pharmacy-advised patches or gum may be used according to instructions, provided it does not compromise care. Products and used patches are stored and disposed of safely because nicotine can harm children.

We support adults who wish to stop smoking to seek pharmacist, GP or NHS stop-smoking advice. Children receive simple positive messages about fresh air and health without blaming or shaming family members.

Exposure incidents and enforcement

Anyone breaching the rule is asked to stop and move away from children. Persistent visitor breaches are addressed and access may be restricted where necessary, while ensuring safe child handover. Staff breaches follow fair workplace and safeguarding procedures according to the risk.

Suspected swallowing or other harmful exposure to nicotine or vaping liquid requires urgent medical help. Call 999 for suspected poisoning or an emergency and follow professional advice; do not induce vomiting. Record the incident, inform parents and follow applicable reporting procedures.

Review and references

Gemma explains the policy at induction and to families and reviews it annually or sooner after an incident or legal change. The setting rule can be stricter than minimum legal requirements. References: current EYFS childminder framework, smoking and vaping; GOV.UK smoking in vehicles guidance; NHS poisoning and stop-smoking advice.

Policy owner: Gemma Bayley
Reviewed: November 2026
Next review due: November 2027