

2025

Smoke Free Policy



Review Framework

The policy should be reviewed at the discretion of the Governing Body

	Date
This policy was originally created in:	2010
School staff were consulted on the policy in:	2010
This issue was revised and released on: [Updated to include electronic cigarettes]	18 July 2014
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Introduction

The aim of this policy is to create and maintain a smoke free School. There can be little doubt that attitudes towards smoking in public areas and at workplaces have changed dramatically over the past decade or so, following an increased concern about matters of health and safety generally and associated educational issues. More recently there have been specific concerns over the effects of "passive smoking" and a growing tendency among children and young people to smoke. Smoking is known to be a serious risk to health. It is a significant cause of disease and premature death. In addition there is now evidence that "passive smoking", the inhaling of other people's smoke, can cause lung cancer in non-smokers, as well as causing a deterioration of respiratory conditions.

Aims and Objectives

This school regards itself as a health-promoting organisation. It recognises that its staff act as role models for students in all aspects of school life, including health promotion.

In light of the evidence that second hand smoke causes damage to health this Smoking Policy has been implemented to:

1. To provide a smoke free environment to protect the staff, children and young people, visitors and contractors from the effects of tobacco smoke and that of electronic cigarettes.
2. To acknowledge the educational role of the organisation in discouraging children and young people from starting to smoke.
3. To provide young people with a consistent message regarding tobacco and drug use.
4. To provide young people with appropriate role models. It has been shown that the biggest factor affecting youth smoking is prevalence of adult smoking and young people's exposure to seeing smoking [ASH].
5. To raise awareness of the dangers of smoking through the Personal Social and Health Education Programme and help smokers quit.
6. To be a health promoting organisation.

Rationale

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in the UK. That is why the Government White Paper "Choosing Health: Making healthier choices easier", promised new action to tackle tobacco and reduce the 106,000 deaths in the UK caused by smoking every year (86,500 in England).

Second hand smoke [breathing other people's tobacco smoke] causes at least 1,000 people to die every year. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, heart disease and cause the onset of asthma,

chest and ear infections and cot death in children. It also leads to over 50 children being admitted to hospital per day. 80% of smokers take up the habit as teenagers, with more than 450 children starting smoking every day [ASH].

From 1 July, 2007 all workplaces in England became smoke free [Health Act 2006 and the Smoke - free (premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006]. From that date it became a criminal offence to smoke in a smoke free place.

The intention is not to confront smokers but to encourage and help those who wish to give up. The issue is not whether someone smokes but where and when he or she smokes.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act [1974] the School has a duty to provide a healthy working environment.

Everyone has a right to a smoke-free environment and to breathe clean air.

Restrictions on smoking within the workplace

Smoking will not be permitted in any part of the School's premises, including offices, kitchens, within the entrance area to the School or on land adjacent to the School building [car park, garden areas, walkways etc.] where this forms part of the School premises. Smoking will also **not** be permitted just outside the School gates, e.g. at the bus stop.

The use of electronic cigarettes is not permitted.

The enforcement of this total smoking ban will be the responsibility of all staff within the school. The school's disciplinary procedure will apply for dealing with employees who breach the smoking ban at work. Employees who raise genuine concerns about breaches of this policy will be protected from victimisation.

This policy applies to employees, parents, visitors, members of the public, contractors and others working in or using the school's premises and vehicles. This policy will be clearly advertised and visitors to the School will be informed of it.

Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to leave the premises.

The smoking policy will apply to all activities held in the school including before and after school sessions and any meetings/events organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.

Staff are not allowed to smoke nor use electronic cigarettes in the presence/sight of students or parents. This includes trips outside of school hours, where students must be supervised at all times.

Non-compliance by students will be dealt with using sanctions outlined in the school's behaviour policy.

Designated smoking areas

There will be **no designated smoking areas** provided within the School premises. This policy is in line with legislation.

Facilities for smokers

No facilities for smoking in the workplace will be provided although support will be given to smokers to assist them to stop smoking.

Vehicles

The smoking ban will apply to all school owned/hired/leased vehicles. No-one will be allowed to smoke inside any school owned/hired/leased vehicles. This ban includes electronic cigarettes.

Support for smoking cessation

The school takes seriously its responsibilities in supporting staff and students to maintain their health and wellbeing.

The following are strategies which can be offered to support the cessation of smoking:

- The NHS offers a range of services to help smokers to give up. Individuals can visit the website – www.nhs.uk/smokefree for details.
- Students are able to access the school nurse for help and advice
- Local pharmacies are supportive of people trying to give up smoking and most will provide a smoking cessation service free of charge to young people below the age of 16.

Education and Publicity

Suitable posters and No Smoking signs will be displayed in School areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke free working environment. The dangers of smoking for students will be addressed in the PSHE programme.

New buildings

This policy will apply equally to all future premises at the design stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation.

Links

This policy forms part of the school's Health and Safety Policy arrangements and was developed in line with recommended good practice from the Healthy Schools initiative.