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Smoking Policy

Introduction

At our school, we take seriously our duty to promote children and young people's wellbeing and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We see our commitment to creating a smoke free environment and developing pupil's knowledge, attitudes and skills in decision making around smoking as part of our work on keeping children and young people safe around drugs and managing risk.

Definition

A drug is any substance which affects how a person thinks, feels or behaves (World Health Organisation). The term includes medicinal, non-medicinal, legal and illegal drugs. Therefore 'drug' refers to nicotine as well as alcohol, volatile substances, medicines, illegal drugs and psychoactive substances (legal highs).

Aim

To ensure a whole-school approach to tobacco in order to protect all members of the school community from the harms of second-hand smoke and to prevent the uptake of, and reduce the prevalence of, smoking across the school community.

Objectives

- To provide a smoke free and e-cigarette free school environment for the whole school community.
- To ensure that tobacco education is part of the school's progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education / PSHE (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use).
- To promote the 'proud to be smoke free' message to all our children.
- To ensure that all staff promote positive attitudes and behaviour in relation to tobacco.
- To ensure that staff have the knowledge and understanding of policies, procedures and agreed practice to support the implementation of the Smoke Free Policy.

- To involve all staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers and members of the wider school community including outside agencies as appropriate, in the development of policy and practice in relation to tobacco.
- To adopt and support interventions that aim to prevent the uptake of smoking amongst pupils, staff, parents/carers and members of the wider school community.
- To involve the wider school community in interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking in children and young people, by providing stop smoking groups/support for parents and carers and through helping them to talk to their children about tobacco and other risk taking behaviours.
- To signpost assistance for pupils, staff and other members of the school community who smoke and wish to stop.
- To ensure that the School's Smoke Free Policy is applied when children / young people are taken off site.

Rationale

All members of the school community have the right to work and learn in a smoke free environment.

Exposure to second-hand smoke (passive smoking) increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Exposure to role models who smoke also normalises smoking behaviour, which can have a significant negative impact on the delivery of the smoke-free message.

Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death and illness in England. It kills half of all long-term users. Those who start smoking before the age of 16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke compared to those who begin later in life and are more likely to be heavier smokers. The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater their risk of developing life-threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease if they continue smoking into adulthood.

Smoke-free school sites and non-smoking staff provide positive role models for children and young people and contribute to the development of a health-promoting school.

This includes the use of e-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes or vapes) due to the following reasons:

1. E-cigarettes/ vapes can look like normal cigarettes. There are potential regulatory issues around enforcing cigarette bans.
2. There are evidence-based Nicotine Replacement Therapy products available on prescription if a staff member is trying to quit smoking or having difficulty with nicotine cravings during work hours.
3. Young people may be influenced by adults smoking e-cigarettes; for example, if youth workers or librarians start using e-cigarettes during their paid work time. There is anecdotal evidence of young people purchasing e-cigarettes on-line and selling them onto other pupils at school.

Providing a smoke-free environment

- This Policy applies to pupils, staff, parents/carers, members of the public, contractors or others working / using the School premises, including the Community Centre Café and associated activities, school vehicles and all other vehicles used to transport pupils.
- Smoking is not permitted by law in any part of the school's premises and grounds including the entrance area to the school, on land adjacent to the School building (e.g. car parks,

garden areas, walkways, playgrounds, playing fields etc.) or on the school road crossing patrol areas.

- There are no designated smoking areas provided within the School buildings or grounds.
- The Smoke Free Policy applies to all events / activities held in the School including before and after school sessions, any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.
- Suitable posters and statutory no smoking signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke-free working environment.
- This Policy applies when pupils are taken off site on school excursions/ visits/trips. Staff and accompanying helpers will be reminded that smoking is not permitted when on duty / looking after pupils.

Smoking prevention activities

- This school promotes healthy living and expects all adults in the school community to fully participate in providing aspirational role models for the pupils.
- Employees are not permitted to smoke in the view of pupils. Employees who do smoke will be asked to ensure they cannot be seen smoking by pupils or other members of the immediate community, even if it is off the school grounds.
- Employees will not take any smoking equipment or materials into any area of the school where there are pupils. A box will be provided in the staffroom in which all smoking items must be placed. They will not be placed in classroom cupboards or any other area. The school insurance will consider any fire started by smoking related equipment on a smoke free site as negligent.
- Tobacco education is part of the School's progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education / PSHE (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use) which may be delivered across the curriculum (biology, chemistry, citizenship, geography, mathematics and media studies.) .
- Training on drugs including tobacco is available for all teaching staff as appropriate as well as pastoral staff and those involved in smoking prevention work including: the Head teacher, Key Stage Leaders, school governors and pastoral staff.

Responding to smoking related incidents

The following procedures will apply when there is non-compliance with the Smoke Free Policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Policy will be widely publicised (staff induction, staff appointment contracts, handbook, website, notice boards, prospectus, promoted) and will be included in contracts for those hiring the use of the School premises. The Policy will be monitored by the Head teacher to ensure compliance and its successful implementation. The Policy will be reviewed every 3 years and ratified by the Governing Body.