

School Smokefree Policy Template (UK)

Date of Policy _____
Staff member responsible _____
Governor _____
School Council member _____
Review date _____

This policy has been developed to assist in compliance with the Health Act 2006 and to protect the whole school community so that everyone can learn and work in a smokefree environment. It also provides guidance for members of the school community on why we are a smokefree school. This policy applies to everyone using the premises (including all grounds and buildings) for any purpose, at any time.

1. Aim

To create 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.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the policy are:

- To provide a smokefree school environment for everyone
- To provide children and young people with consistent information about tobacco (including health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use) throughout the curriculum
- To assist interventions that aim to prevent the uptake of smoking as part of PSHE
- To involve the wider school community in interventions to prevent smoking uptake in children and young people, by providing stop smoking groups for parents and carers or by encouraging them to become involved in homework assignments
- To provide assistance for those who smoke and wish to stop

3. 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 smokefree message.

Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death and illness in England, responsible for over 80,000 deaths per year. It kills half of all long term users.

Two thirds of all new smokers in England are young people under the age of 18. 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 (Muller 2007). 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.

Note: Smokefree 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.

4. Providing a smokefree environment (Procedure)

- This policy applies to students, employees, parents, members of the public, contractors or others working/ using the school premises or vehicles.
- Smoking is not permitted 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, walkway, playgrounds, playing fields etc) or on the school road crossing patrol areas. This policy will apply equally to future premises at the construction stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.
- There will be no designated smoking areas provided within the school buildings or grounds.
- The smokefree policy applies to all activities held in the school including before and after school sessions and any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.
- Suitable posters, displays and statutory no smoking signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smokefree working environment.
- Smoking is not permitted in any school owned/hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying students or staff on school business. **Please note: this is a statutory requirement.** Schools also have a duty to reinforce the smoking legislation on buses used for pupil transport.
- Education outside the classroom and other similar events held off-site are also considered to be smokefree. Employees and parent helpers will be reminded prior to such trips that they must not smoke while looking after pupils.

5. Non-compliance

The school's disciplinary procedure as stated below will apply for dealing with staff and students who do not comply with the Smokefree School policy. Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the policy.

Disciplinary action:

If a student is found smoking:

If a member of staff is found smoking:

If a non-member of staff on the premises is found smoking:

6. Assistance for those who smoke

Local NHS Stop Smoking Services are available to staff, parents and students who would like to stop smoking (*please note: this service should **not** be seen as a disciplinary action*). Free group and one-to-one support may be available for staff and parents through their local Stop Smoking Service (Please insert details of local Stop Smoking Service, details of which can be found at: www.smokefree.nhs.uk).

The NHS Stop Smoking Service may also be able to set up a group for parents and/or staff in school upon request. Students should at first access services through the school nursing service or their GP Practice, or by contacting the NHS Specialist Stop Smoking

Service. The school will promote these services regularly within the school and through parents' newsletters.

7. Smoking prevention activities (Procedure)

- Students are not permitted to smoke when in uniform or when representing the school in any capacity. Students found smoking will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 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 students (even if it is off the school grounds).
- Tobacco education forms part of the wider school curriculum where consistent messages are provided to pupils about tobacco. As well as the health effects of tobacco use, the legal, economic and social aspects of smoking are integrated into the curriculum. For example, classroom discussions about tobacco are relevant when teaching a range of subjects including biology, chemistry, citizenship, geography, mathematics and media studies.
- Within PSHE, at least one intervention is delivered per year that aims to prevent the uptake of smoking (E.g. Operation Smoke Storm), with additional booster whole-school activities such as theatre and guest speakers introduced at regular intervals until school leaving age.
- Tobacco education is also included in the transition phase from primary to secondary school. Where possible, and in order to promote consistent messages, parents are encouraged to be involved in tobacco education, by letting them know about class work or by asking them to help students with homework assignments.

8. Staff Training and Development

Training on tobacco can be given to all pastoral staff and those involved in smoking prevention work including:

Head teachers, Year Heads, School Governors, Pastoral staff.

Within the school this policy is linked to:

- Healthy School strategy on wellbeing, sex and relationships education, drug education and behaviour
- Health and safety policy
- Drug education policy
- Behaviour policy

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy should be widely publicised and advertised so that everyone using the premises is aware of its content (including on school WebPages, in all appointment procedures, staff handbooks and school prospectus).

This policy will be monitored by management to ensure that it is running effectively. Any problems or queries relating to the policy can be put to management through a staff or school council representative.

References

DiFranza JR, Wellman RJ, Sargent JD et al. (2006) Tobacco Promotion and the initiation of tobacco use: assessing the evidence for causality. *Pediatrics* 117 (6): e1237-48

Fuller E (Editor) 2007. Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England, 2006. London: Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Goddard E (1990). Why children start smoking. London: Office for Population, Censuses and Surveys and Department of Health

Muller T (2007) Breaking the cycle of children's exposure to tobacco smoke. London: British Medical Association

NICE Public Health Guidance 23 (2010): School-based interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking among children and young people