



Stakesby Community Primary School

Smoke Free Policy 2016

Prepared by

Roy Gunning

Discussed with

Governing Body

Adopted on

Signed (Chair of Governors)

Date

Stakesby Community Primary School.
Smoke Free Policy

Stakesby Community Primary School regards itself as a health-promoting school. It recognises that its staff act as role models for pupils in all aspects of school life, including health promotion.

Second hand smoking - breathing in other people's smoke - has now been shown to cause lung cancer and heart disease in non-smokers, as well as many other illnesses and minor conditions.

Our school acknowledges that breathing in other people's tobacco smoke is both a public health hazard and a welfare issue. It is also noted that electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) mimic the effects of real cigarettes. As yet, experts do not agree on what harm the tobacco-free devices could inflict and that their contents could be damaging young people's health. As such, we will err on the side of caution and treat e-cigarettes and vaping as potentially harmful.

Rationale

- Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill-health in our society.
- Passive smoking - breathing other people's tobacco smoke - is also potentially fatal. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, as well as many other illnesses, in non-smokers.
- Smoking is a health and safety issue for all adults who use the school: staff, parents/carers, visitors.
- Everyone has a right to breathe clean air, and non-smokers are in the majority.
- Schools have a major role to play in working towards non-smoking being seen as the norm in society and vital for a healthy lifestyle.
- Children need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models within the school.

Aims and objectives

- To protect non-smokers from the adverse health effects of environmental tobacco smoke and e-cigarette vapours in the workplace;
- Help children know and understand the dangers of smoking, and the harmful effects that smoking can have on their bodies;
- Provide children with the knowledge and information necessary for them to make responsible choices in relation to smoking;
- Equip children with the social skills that enable them to resist the pressure to smoke, either from their peer group, or from society in general.
- Support any member of the school community who smokes, to adjust to our smoke-free environment, providing information and advice where requested for those who wish to stop smoking.

Organisation

We teach children about the dangers of smoking as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme, with advice and support from the Local Health Authority. As well as teaching the children about the effects that smoking has on the body, we engage them in discussions about the reasons why people start to smoke, and what they themselves might do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes. The children's class teacher leads all such discussions in a sensitive manner. S/he encourages the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking. While we explain that it is illegal to sell cigarettes to people under sixteen years of age, our aim is to help the children make their own decision not to smoke, simply because they believe it is the wrong lifestyle to choose.

The dangers of smoking sometimes arise as an issue in science lessons, when children learn about the way substances affect the body, e.g. when we teach them about how medicines can help the body. When such an issue arises, the class teacher deals with it in context, and answers the children's questions to the best of his/her ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided. Parents may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school.

Restrictions on smoking:

Staff - All staff - teaching, support and peripatetic, may not smoke tobacco or e-cigarettes while on school premises and grounds.

Pupils - Pupils may not smoke tobacco or e-cigarettes while on school premises and grounds or while engaged in school related activities outside the school.

Parents/Carers - Parents may not smoke tobacco or e-cigarettes while on school premises and grounds. Parents will be informed of this restriction during the pupil induction process, in intermittent reminders on the newsletter and by being signposted to this policy on the school website.

Visitors - The smoking policy applies to all visitors to the school, for example parents, carers, suppliers, supply or temporary staff, contractors, sports coaches etc.

The following arrangements have been made for informing visitors of the policy's existence:

- Clearly worded signs will be sited to announce the policy.
- Staff members will inform visitors of the policy when necessary.

School related activities

The prohibition of smoking tobacco or e-cigarettes will apply during related school activities undertaken outside school premises, eg educational visits.

When school premises are used for purposes other than school related activities, the school smoking policy will still remain in operation.

Procedures

If staff are found smoking tobacco or e-cigarettes on school premises, grounds or during school-related activities, this will be deemed to be committing an act of gross misconduct and will be subject to disciplinary action.

If parents or visitors are found smoking tobacco or e-cigarettes on school premises or grounds, they will be required to cease or leave the premises or grounds immediately and may not be permitted to return. Parents assisting on school activities and educational visits are subject to the same no smoking policy as staff.

Systems of support

Staff, parents and visitors wishing to stop smoking tobacco or e-cigarettes can seek support and advice from:

- NHS Stop Smoking Services (<http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>)
- NHS Quit Squad - Central Lancashire NHS Stop Smoking Service Telephone: 0800 328 6297 or 01772 644474
- GP Surgeries

Implementing and monitoring

Members of staff will be given an e-copy of this policy, which will become part of their contract of employment.

Parents will be informed of the policy.

Members of staff will inform school visitors of the policy.

Signs and notices will be posted in prominent positions throughout the school premises.

Policy written by: Roy Gunning

Policy adopted: Sept 2016

Policy to be reviewed: as required