

Smoke-free Policy

Meadowdale Primary School



Date: September 2016
Review Date: September 2019
Responsibility of: Premises Committee

Introduction

This policy provides guidance for members of the school community on why we are a smoke-free school. It has been developed with the need to protect the whole school community so that everyone can learn in a smoke-free environment. This policy applies to everyone using the premises (including all grounds and buildings) for any purpose, at any time.

For the purposes of this policy, smoking includes electronic smoking devices (e-cigarettes, vapers etc) as well as traditional cigarettes, cigars, pipes etc.

Aim

To create a whole-school approach to tobacco in order to prevent the uptake of, and reduce the prevalence of, smoking across the school community.

Objectives

The objectives of the policy are:

- To provide a smoke-free school environment for everyone
- To provide children with consistent information about tobacco through the curriculum
- To provide interventions that aim to prevent the uptake of smoking as part of PSHE and activities related to Healthy School status

Rationale

Smoking is the main cause of preventable morbidity and premature death in England. In 2007, it is estimated that 82,900 adults aged 35 or over died as a result of smoking. This translates into nearly two in ten deaths in England of people aged 35 and over (The Information Centre 2008).

The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater risk of developing life-threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease, if they continue smoking into adulthood. Those who start smoking before the age of

16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke as those who begin later in life – and are more likely to be heavier smokers (Muller 2007).

The process of becoming a regular smoker is not always constant – children may stop and start the habit on a number of occasions before they come to identify themselves as someone who smokes (Goddard 1990).

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

Factors linked to smoking

Children start to smoke and then continue for a number of reasons. These may be connected to their personal or social circumstances or to wider society. Personal factors include age, gender, socio-economic status, educational attainment and mental health.

Social circumstances, such as being surrounded by peers and family members who smoke, can also affect whether or not children will take up smoking. For example, smoking among children is strongly associated with living with one or more people who smoke. Many children see smoking as the norm because they mistakenly believe it is more prevalent than it really is. For this reason, supporting adult smokers to stop is also a key aspect in encouraging children not to take up smoking.

School premises

- Smoking is not permitted in any part of the school's premises and grounds including the entrance area to the school, the sports hall, the area outside the sports hall, or on land adjacent to the school building (e.g. car parks, garden areas, playgrounds, playing fields etc). 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.
- This policy applies to employees, parents, visitors, hirers, members of the public, contractors or anyone else working or using the school's premises or vehicles.
- The smoke-free policy will apply to all activities held in the school including before and after school sessions, lettings, training events and meetings.

Suitable posters, displays and statutory no smoking signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke-free working environment.

Vehicles

The smoking policy will apply to all school-owned/hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying students or staff on school business.

Non-compliance

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

Action:

If a member of staff is found smoking they will be reminded of the school's No Smoking Policy.

If a non-member of staff on the premises is found smoking they will be reminded of the school's No Smoking Policy and asked to stop. If they continue to smoke they will be asked to leave the premises.

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). Group and one-to-one support is available for staff and parents through the NHS specialist Stop Smoking Service or through their GP Practice and selected pharmacies. The Leicestershire County & Rutland NHS Stop Smoking Service may also be able to set up a group for parents and/or staff in our school upon request.

Further information from Leicestershire County & Rutland NHS specialist Stop Smoking Service can be given on all the above by phoning 0845 045 2828.

The school promotes these services regularly within the school and through parents' newsletters.

Smoking prevention activities

Tobacco education forms part of the wider school curriculum where consistent messages are provided to pupils about tobacco in key stage 2 usually within PSHE.