

Packington Church of England Primary School

Policy on Smoking

March 2017

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At Packington Church of England Primary School, we believe that smoking is harmful to health, so we strongly discourage our children from smoking. Consequently, the school is a non-smoking establishment. Smoking will NOT be permitted (this includes e-cigarettes) in any part of the school premises. The smoking policy will apply to all activities held on school premises including those held during school hours and out of school hours. This includes all social and sporting events, off site and residential visits and any meetings organised, which are attended by school employees as part of their work and /or visitors to such meetings/events.

The enforcement of this smoking policy will be the responsibility of all designated responsible persons 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 or using the school's premises or 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.

2 Rationale

- 2.1 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 and parents

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. Children need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models within the school.

Research shows that almost a quarter of all young people are regular smokers by the age of 15. Almost all adult smokers took up the habit when they were children. About 450 children a day take up the habit, and they can become addicted within days, from just one or two cigarettes. Smoking is regarded by the medical profession as the major cause of many illnesses. It is estimated that approximately 120,000 smokers a year die in the UK because of their smoking habit. Children can be harmed by passive smoking, i.e. by inhaling smoke from other people's cigarettes. Seventy per cent of children are exposed to other people's smoke when they go out, and 34 per cent are exposed to smoke in their own homes. It is known that smoking is harmful to the unborn babies of mothers who smoke.

For all these reasons, our school does all it can to discourage children from smoking, and to educate them in such a way that they adopt a healthy lifestyle.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 We aim to:

- protect non-smokers from the adverse health effects of environmental tobacco smoke and e-cigarette vapours in the workplace.
- demonstrate the school's commitment to promoting the health of pupils and staff.
- 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.

4 Organisation

- 4.1 The dangers of smoking are addressed in Years 5 and 6, in our Science curriculum and in our programme of personal, social and health education (PSHE). Where possible we also utilise advice and support from the 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 should 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. We explain that it is illegal for cigarettes to be sold to people under 18 years of age, but our aim is for children to refrain from smoking not only for that reason, but also because they believe that smoking is a wrong lifestyle choice.
- 4.2 The dangers of smoking sometimes arise as an issue in science lessons at Key Stage 2, when children learn about the way substances affect the body. When such an issue arises, class teachers deal with it in context, and answer the children's questions to the best of their ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided.
- 4.3 Parents and carers may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school.

5 Restrictions on smoking:

Staff

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

We do not allow smoking (including e cigarettes) on any part of the school site, including the staffroom. We do not provide a designated smoking area. If any members of staff do wish to smoke, they must leave the school site. Should any member of staff be found smoking on the school premises in contravention of this policy, we would consider this a serious breach of the terms of employment.

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

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, 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.

School premises utilised outside normal working hours.

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 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 either cease smoking or leave the premises or grounds immediately and they 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

6. Monitoring and review

- 6.1 It is the role of the headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. Every three years, or earlier if necessary, the governors review this policy as part of their monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's PSHE programme.

Signed:

Date:

Review Date: