



SMOKEFREE POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy has been developed to protect all employees, service users, customers and visitors from exposure to secondhand smoke and to assist compliance with the Health Act 2006.

Exposure to secondhand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other serious illnesses. Ventilation or separating smokers and non-smokers within the same airspace does not completely stop potentially dangerous exposure.

POLICY

It is the policy of Bartley C of E Junior School that all of our premises, including grounds are smokefree, and all employees have a right to work in a smokefree environment. The policy came into effect Sunday 1st July 2007. This policy applies to all employees, and visitors to the school. The use of e-cigarettes is also not permitted on our premises.

IMPLEMENTATION

Overall responsibility for policy implementation and review rests with the Headteacher. However, all staff are obliged to adhere to, and support the implementation of the policy. The Headteacher shall inform all existing employees of the policy and their role in the implementation and monitoring of the policy. They will also give all new personnel a copy of the policy on recruitment/induction.

Appropriate 'no-smoking' signs will be clearly displayed at the entrances to and within the premises.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Local disciplinary procedures will be followed if a member of staff does not comply with this policy. Those who do not comply with the smokefree law may also be liable to a fixed penalty fine and possible criminal prosecution.

HELP TO STOP SMOKING

The NHS offers a range of free services to help smokers give up. Visit gosmokefree.co.uk or call the NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0 169 for details. Alternatively you can text 'GIVE UP' and your full postcode to 88088 to find your local NHS Stop Smoking Service.

Review Date 3.2.2017. Next review Feb 2020

This policy was reviewed early to include the use of e-cigarettes.

See Hampshire County Council Guidance on the use of e-cigarettes for more details.

School Update on E-cigarettes

About 1.3 million people in the UK are now using e-cigarettes. The popularity of e-cigarettes has raised issues for schools in relation to their smokefree policy and use of e-cigarettes by young people.

What are e-cigarettes?



E-cigarettes, or electronic cigarettes, are often designed to look and feel like cigarettes. A typical e-cigarette consists of three main components: a battery, an atomiser and a cartridge containing nicotine. The level of nicotine in the cartridges may vary and some also contain flavourings. Some e-cigarettes also have an indicator light at the end that glows when the user draws on the device to resemble a lit cigarette. When a user sucks on the device, a sensor detects air flow and heats the liquid in the cartridge so that it evaporates. The vapour delivers the nicotine

to the user. There is no side-stream smoke but some nicotine vapour is released into the air as the smoker exhales.

E-cigarettes have been marketed as cheaper and healthier alternatives to cigarettes and for use in places where smoking is not permitted since they do not produce smoke. Testing data confirms that nicotine levels can vary considerably from the labelled content and the amount of nicotine per product can differ from batch to batch. With regards to safety, toxic elements may be included at unexpectedly high doses which could produce adverse effects, particularly in vulnerable people.



Regulation of E-cigarettes

E-cigarettes are not currently licensed, in the ways that other nicotine-containing products are licensed. There has been limited research on the safety and quality of e-cigarettes, their effect on the body and their effectiveness as a stop smoking aid. E-cigarettes will be regulated as medicines by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) from 2016.

What is the law relating to e-cigarettes?

Currently, e-cigarettes are not regulated under smokefree law in the UK. In general, users are free to use them in most public places such as bars, restaurants and on public transport, although the managers of some premises have prohibited their use (see Smokefree Policy).

However, the ban on smoking in public places has reinforced in many people's minds that such behaviour has gone from a normal, widely accepted activity to one that is abnormal and unaccepted. There are concerns that e-cigarettes will undermine this process, threatening the now established practice of smokefree public places, such as at work or on public transport.

Can e-cigarettes be used as a stop smoking aid?

Although e-cigarettes are currently unregulated, they are likely to be far less harmful than smoked tobacco and may present advantages to individuals who wish to cut down or stop their smoking entirely. However, the evidence suggests that e-cigarettes are no more effective in quitting than other supported methods, for which we already have substantial safety data. As a consequence, products with a known safety profile are

preferable. The best advice to people wishing to switch from cigarettes is to attend your local stop smoking service, or to speak to your GP or pharmacist about the range of licensed products available.

What about e-cigarettes and young people?

As they are not regulated, anyone under the age of 18 can purchase an e-cigarette, which usually contains nicotine and which is highly addictive. Therefore, there is concern that electronic cigarettes and other nicotine containing devices may become a gateway to lifelong use of nicotine by young people. Whether this is through continued use of electronic cigarettes, or leads on to use of other forms of tobacco such as cigarettes. E-cigarettes also help to re-“normalise” smoking by making it appear that people are smoking cigarettes more widely.

Should e-cigarettes be covered in our school smokefree policy?

Hampshire County Council has banned the use of e-cigarettes on council premises as part of the smokefree policy. Hampshire County Council encourages schools to consider including e-cigarettes in their own smokefree policies to promote a healthy environment and “smokefree” role model. Specific reasons include:

- Avoiding “re-normalising” smoking by removing the visibility of “cigarettes” from the school site.
- Removing the issue of “lookalikes” - is it a cigarette or not? Most e-cigarettes look like real cigarettes and produce a vapour. This avoids confusion.
- Concerns over safety issues of e-cigarettes – as they are not currently regulated, we do not know if they are safe. There are also concerns that they may be a fire hazard.
- Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive.
- Controls on the use of nicotine within school – you may wish to consider ways of supporting students who currently smoke in coping with nicotine withdrawal through Nicotine Replacement Therapy, rather than e-cigarettes. Your local stop smoking service may be able to support you in helping pupils to stop smoking, or manage their withdrawal cravings.

Local NHS Stop Smoking Services

Hampshire: <http://www.quit4life.nhs.uk/>

Portsmouth and Southampton: <http://www.southamptonquitters.nhs.uk/>

Isle of Wight: <http://www.nhsstopsmokingiow.co.uk/>