



Smoke Free School Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

This is our school St Werburgh's and St Columba's
A place to be inspired, be accepted, be yourself and be unique.
Be able to grow spiritually, academically and morally.
Be able to contribute to the community and be a responsible global citizen.
Be able to reach for the stars and fulfil your potential.
A place, providing an excellent Catholic education for everyone.
Where we belong, where everyone belongs.

Action: Spring 2024
Review: Autumn Term 2028

1 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 balance the interests of the whole school, the need to protect children and enable all to work and play in a smoke-free environment. All children and young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about smoking. Schools play a central role in helping them make such decisions by providing education about the risks and effects of tobacco.

2 Aim

The aims of this policy are:

- To create a 'Smoke-Free' school.
- To help individuals lead healthy lives.
- To teach about the harmful effect of tobacco.
- To improve the quality of the pupils' decision making with regard to their health.

3 Objectives

The objectives of the policy are:

- To provide a smoke-free school environment for everyone.
- To provide children and young people with a consistent message regarding tobacco and its impact on health.
- To provide assistance for those who smoke and wish to stop.

4 Rationale

- This policy contributes towards the National Healthy School Standard (DfES 2005).
- The Health Act 2006 places restrictions on smoking within the workplace.
- Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in the UK.
- Second hand smoke - 'breathing other people's tobacco smoke' causes at least 1,000 people to die a year. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, heart disease and cause the onset of asthma, chest and ear infections and cot death in children. It also leads to over 50 children being admitted to hospital per day. 80% of smokers take up the habit as teenagers with 450 children starting smoking every day.
- Everyone has the right to a smoke-free environment.
- The policy on non-smoking at school forms part of the school's Health and Safety Policy arrangements.
- Smoke-Free Policies in schools provide a positive role model for children and contribute to the development of a health-promoting school.
- E-cigarettes are used by people in order to give up smoking and we are supportive of any such endeavours. They are not to be used on the school site by any individual. Pupils may perceive these to be cigarettes as they appear to emulate smoking. This may lead to confusion amongst pupils.

A Smoke-Free Policy will help to reinforce rather than contradict the school's health education programme

5 Smoke-Free School Premises

- Smoking will NOT be permitted in any part of the school's premises including kitchens, within the entrance area to the school or on land adjacent to the school building (car park, garden areas, walkway, playgrounds, playing fields etc) where this forms part of the school premises.
- There will be NO designated smoking areas provided within the school premises.
- The use of e-cigarettes will NOT be permitted in any part of the school's premises including kitchens, within the entrance area to the school or on land adjacent to the school building (car park, garden areas, walkway, playgrounds, playing fields etc.) where this forms part of the school premises.

- This policy applies to employees, parents, visitors, members of the public, contractors and others working or using the school's premises or vehicles.
- The school's disciplinary procedure will apply for dealing with staff and pupils who do not comply with the Smoke-Free Status at school.
- Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the smoke-free status.
- The Smoke-Free Policy will apply 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.

6 Vehicles

The smoking policy will apply to all school hired/ leased vehicles. No one will be allowed to smoke inside any school hired/leased vehicles. **Please note: This is a statutory requirement.**

Staff are asked to refrain from smoking in their own vehicles when carrying passengers on school business.

7 Assistance for those who smoke

We recognise the importance of being smoke-free and therefore adhere to the principle that second hand smoke is damaging to health. In addition, we also stand by the notion that smoking is an addictive behaviour. We pledge that we are willing to be very supportive to anyone who wishes to give up smoking by offering stop-smoking information to anyone who is interested.

8 Education and Publicity

Suitable posters and "No Smoking" signs including statutory signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke-free working environment. Tobacco education will form part of the PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) programme, where consistent messages will be provided to pupils about the damaging effects of smoking on health. This will include information regarding the difference in harm between tobacco products and e- cigarettes.

9 Appointments

This school is a Smoke-Free school and this will be made clear within all its appointments procedures, staff handbooks and school prospectus.

10 Working with Parents and Governors

The school recognises the importance of consulting with parents and governors to develop the Smoke-Free Policy.

It will communicate the benefits for pupils of having a smoke free school environment.

Parents and governors will be asked to support this message and adhere to the smoking policy on school premises at all times.

11 Working with pupils

Within the PSHE curriculum there is a structured programme which aims to raise the children's awareness of the dangerous effects of smoking.

12 Monitoring

The 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.

