

Name of Policy: Smoke Free School Pol	Version/Last Review Date: April 2022 (V1)
Statutory documents linked to policy:	Previous Review Date:
Other Policies linked to this policy:	Next Review Date: April 2025 (V2)
Governor Committee Responsible	FPP

At West Newcastle Academy, we take seriously our duty to promote children and young people's wellbeing and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (Education and Inspection Act, 2006). We see our commitment to creating a smoke free environment and developing pupil's knowledge, attitudes and skills in decision making around smoking as part of our work on keeping children and young people safe around drugs and managing risk.

Definition

A drug is any substance which affects how a person thinks, feels or behaves (World Health Organisation). The term includes medicinal, non-medicinal, legal and illegal drugs. Therefore 'drug' refers to nicotine as well as alcohol, volatile substances, medicines, illegal drugs and psychoactive substances (legal highs).

Aim

To ensure a whole-school approach to tobacco in order to protect all members of the school community from the harms of second-hand smoke and to prevent the uptake of, and reduce the prevalence of, smoking across the school community.

Objectives

- To provide a smoke free and e-cigarette free school environment for the whole school community.
- To ensure that tobacco education is part of the school's progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education / PSHCE (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use).
- To promote the 'proud to be smoke free' message to all our children.
- To ensure that all staff promote positive attitudes and behaviour in relation to tobacco.
- To ensure that staff have the knowledge and understanding of policies, procedures and agreed practice to support the implementation of the Smoke Free Policy.
- To involve all staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers and members of the wider school community including outside agencies as appropriate, in the development of policy and practice in relation to tobacco.
- To adopt and support interventions that aim to prevent the uptake of smoking amongst pupils, staff, parents/carers and members of the wider school community.
- To involve the wider school community in interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking in children and young people, by providing stop smoking groups/support for parents and carers and through helping them to talk to their children about tobacco and other risk taking behaviours.
- To signpost assistance for pupils, staff and other members of the school community who smoke and wish to stop.
- To ensure that the School's Smoke Free Policy is applied when children / young people are taken off site.

Rationale

All members of the school community have the right to work and learn in a smoke free environment. Exposure to second hand smoke (passive smoking) increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Exposure to role models who smoke also normalises smoking behaviour, which can have a significant negative impact on the delivery of the smoke-free message.

Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death and illness in England, responsible for over 80,000 deaths per year. It kills half of all long term users. Two thirds of all new smokers in England are young people under the age of 18. Those who start smoking before the age of 16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke compared to those who begin later in life, and are more likely to be heavier smokers (Muller 2007). The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater their risk of developing life-threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease if they continue smoking into adulthood.

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

This includes the use of e-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes) due to the following reasons:

1. E-cigarettes can look like normal cigarettes. There are potential regulatory issues around enforcing cigarette bans.
2. There are evidence based Nicotine Replacement Therapy products available on prescription if a staff member is trying to quit smoking or having difficulty with nicotine cravings during work hours.
3. Young people may be influenced by adults smoking e-cigarettes; for example if youth workers or librarians start using e-cigarettes during their paid work time. There is anecdotal evidence of young people purchasing e-cigarettes on-line and selling them onto other pupils at school.

Providing a smoke-free environment

- This Policy applies to pupils, staff, parents/carers, members of the public, contractors or others working /using the School premises, including the Community Centre Café and associated activities, school vehicles and all other vehicles used to transport pupils.
- Smoking is not permitted by law in any part of the school's premises and grounds including the entrance area to the school, on land adjacent to the School building (e.g. car parks, garden areas, walkways, playgrounds, playing fields etc.) or on the school road crossing patrol areas.
- There are no designated smoking areas provided within the School buildings or grounds.
- The Smoke Free Policy applies to all events / activities held in the School including before and after school sessions, any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.
- Statutory no smoking signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke-free working environment.
- Smoking is not permitted in any school owned/hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying pupils or staff on school business.
- This Policy applies when pupils are taken off site on school visits. Staff and accompanying helpers will be reminded that smoking is not permitted when on duty /looking after pupils.

Smoking prevention activities

- This school promotes healthy living and expects all adults in the school community to fully participate in providing aspirational role models for the pupils.
- Employees are not permitted to smoke in the view of pupils. Employees who do smoke will be asked to ensure they cannot be seen smoking by pupils or other members of the immediate community, even if it is off the school grounds.
- Employees will not take any smoking equipment or materials into any area of the school where there are pupils. A box will be provided in the staffroom in which all smoking items must be placed. They will not be placed in classroom cupboards or any other area. The school insurance will consider any fire started by smoking related equipment on a smoke free site as negligent.
- Tobacco education is part of the School's progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education / PSHCE (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use) which may be delivered across the curriculum (biology, chemistry, citizenship, geography, mathematics and media studies.)
- A range of age appropriate methodologies will be used to deliver tobacco education with the aim of preventing the uptake of smoking including discussion strategies, use of new technologies, drama strategies including theatre in education and where appropriate use of outside agencies.
- Parents/carers are encouraged and supported to be actively involved in their child's drug/tobacco education through home /school activities, drug education evenings etc.
- Training on drugs including tobacco is available for all teaching staff as appropriate as well as pastoral staff and those involved in smoking prevention work including: the headteacher, senior staff, school governors and facilities/non -teaching staff.

Other Related Policies /Guidance

This Policy is linked to/consistent with:

- Substance Misuse Policy

- PHSCE Policy
- Wellbeing Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Single Equalities Policy
- Disciplinary Policy

Responding to smoking related incidents

The following procedures will apply when there is non-compliance with the Smoke Free Policy.

Staff

All members of staff are required to comply with the school policies. The Schools Disciplinary Procedure will be followed for members of staff who do not comply with the Smoke Free School Policy. The staff member will also be offered support to help them quit smoking through linking them with appropriate support in the community.

Pupils

The school will respond to any pupil either smoking or possessing smoking equipment as a matter of child protection. Any incident will be referred immediately to the headteacher who will deal with it on a case by case basis.

Non staff members/school visitors

Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the Policy to adhere to the Policy.

Assistance for those who smoke

- Local NHS Stop Smoking Services are available to staff, parents/carers who would like to stop smoking (please note: this service will not be seen as a disciplinary action). Group and one-to-one support may be available for staff and parents/carers through the local Stop Smoking Service.
- The NHS Stop Smoking Service may be able to set up a group for parents/carers and/or staff in school upon request. The School will promote these services regularly within the school and through parents' /carer's newsletters/ website etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Policy will be widely publicised (staff induction, staff appointment contracts, handbook, website, notice boards, prospectus, promoted) and will be included in contracts for those hiring the use of the School premises.

The Policy will be monitored by the Head teacher to ensure compliance and its successful implementation.

The Policy will be reviewed every 3 years and ratified by the Governing Body.