



## Smoke Free Policy

Date approved:	Awaiting ratification by governors – July 2016
Review Frequency:	Every three years.
Date next review due:	July 2019

### Introduction

At our school, 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. Accordingly, this Policy compliments our school's Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy.

### 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 school environment for the whole school community.
- To ensure that tobacco education is part of the school's progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education as delivered through Science and Civics.
- To ensure that all staff promote positive attitudes and behaviour in relation to creating and maintaining a smoke free environment and reducing the prevalence of smoking across the school community.
- 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 support interventions that aim to prevent the uptake of smoking amongst pupils, staff, parents/carers and members of the wider school community.
- To ensure that pupils, staff and other members of the school community who smoke and wish to stop are signposted to the appropriate services.



- 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 learn and work 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 (School Smoke Free Policy Template UK).*

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

1. E-cigarettes are not yet regulated and we are still unsure about the safety of the product. They are not due for medical regulation until 2016.
2. Some e-cigarettes look like normal cigarettes, and from a distance it would be difficult to differentiate the vapour they emit from cigarette smoke. There are potential regulatory issues around enforcing e-cigarette bans.
3. There are evidence based Nicotine Replacement Therapy products available on prescription if your staff member is trying to stop smoking or having difficulty with nicotine cravings during work hours.
4. 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.

## Providing a Smoke-Free Environment (Procedure)

- This Policy applies to pupils, staff, parents/carers, members of the public, contractors or others working / using the School premises or vehicles and all vehicles used to transport pupils.
- Smoking is not permitted 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. This Policy will apply equally to future premises at the construction stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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. **Please note: this is a statutory requirement.** Schools also have a duty to reinforce the smoking legislation on buses used for pupil transport.
- This Policy applies when pupils are taken off site on school excursions/ visits/trips. Staff and accompanying helpers will be reminded that smoking is not permitted when on duty / looking after pupils.

## Smoking Prevention Activities (Procedure)

### **Pupils**

- Pupils are not permitted to smoke when in uniform or when representing the School in any capacity. This includes all tobacco products and electronic (e) cigarettes.
- 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 (even if it is off the school grounds).
- Tobacco education is part of the School's programme of drug education in Science and Civics (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use). Tobacco education may also be delivered in other subjects to reinforce the work done in Civics and Science.
- A range of age appropriate methodologies will be used to deliver tobacco education with the aim of preventing the uptake of smoking including E.g. discussion and drama strategies, use of new technologies, 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 information provided to parents and carers and through home /school activities.

### **Staff**



- 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 Head teacher, Year Heads, school governors, pastoral staff.
- Training needs with regards drugs including tobacco will be reviewed at the time of policy review.

## Other Related Policies /Guidance

- Within the School this Policy is linked to/consistent with: Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Staff Disciplinary Procedure

## Responding to smoking related incidents

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

### **Staff**

The School's Disciplinary Procedure will be followed for members of staff who do not comply with the School's Smoke Free Policy.

The staff member will be offered support to help them stop smoking through linking them with appropriate support in the community.

### **Pupils**

The following procedure will be followed for pupils in breach of the School's Smoke Free Policy:

The pupil(s) will be signposted to smoking cessation services either in school or the community and begin a programme of support. If they choose not to seek support, a letter will be sent to parents/carers informing them of the support available and the sanction of Riverside School applied.

In the first instance, support must be offered to stop smoking as nicotine is highly addictive and research shows that children /young people and adults are more likely to stop smoking with support from a smoking cessation advisor. NRT is available on prescription for 12 years old and above and use of certain products can be agreed upon within the school, for example; lozenges but not gum.



## **Non staff members/school visitors**

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

## **Assistance for those who smoke**

Local Stop Smoking Services are available to staff, parents/carers and pupils who would like to stop smoking (*please note: this service should **not** be seen as a disciplinary action*).

## **London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBB) Specialist Stop Smoking Service (SSS)**

The LBBB SSS offers both face to face and telephone support to smokers who:-

- would like to stop smoking and receive support from the service
- live, work, or are registered with a GP in Barking or Dagenham
- are a current smoker of a tobacco product
- are aged 12 years or over

## **LBBB SSS Self Service Referral**

Residents can self-refer into the service by calling 020 8724 8018 or emailing: [stopsmoking@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:stopsmoking@lbbd.gov.uk)

The LBBB SSS offers a twelve-week programme that will be focussed on pregnant women, and on people with mental health conditions and learning disabilities.

For smokers that live outside of the borough of Barking and Dagenham and do not meet the above criteria for the LBBB SSS please go to [www.nhs.uk/smokefree](http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree) to find your local stop smoking service.

- Pupils in the first instance, should access services through the school nursing service or their GP Practice, or by contacting the LBBB Specialist Stop Smoking Service.
- 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 reviewed and developed in consultation with members of the whole school community. It will be widely publicised (staff induction, staff appointment contracts, handbook, website,



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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 Headteacher to ensure compliance and its successful implementation.













