

Billingham Church of England Primary School
Non-Smoking Policy
July 2024

1 Introduction

- At Billingham Church of England Primary School we believe that smoking is harmful to health, and consequently the school is a non smoking establishment.

1 Rationale

- 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. 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. Smoking is the single most preventative cause of premature death and ill health in our society.
- Children and adults can be harmed by passive smoking, i.e. by inhaling smoke from other people's cigarettes. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, as well as many other illnesses in non smokers. 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, so that they grow up to lead a healthy lifestyle.

2 Aims and objectives

- We aim to:
 - 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 and to make healthy, responsible choices.
- Smoking education interventions have particularly been shown to delay the onset of smoking in young people. The most effective means of preventing them from starting to smoke is for the school to tackle smoking holistically using a whole school approach.
- Failure to comply with the policy will be dealt with through disciplinary procedures.
- We recognise that the delivery of tobacco education is not the sole responsibility of school. Parents and members of the wider community have much to offer.
- Schools should work effectively in partnership with parents and others in the wider community.
- Health professionals, social workers, youth workers, peer educators, and all visitors all have a part to play in delivering tobacco education and should abide by the school's policy.

3 Organisation

- We teach children about the dangers of smoking as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme. 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 might do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes. The children's class teacher leads all such discussions in a sensitive manner. She/he encourages the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking. While we explain that it is illegal to sell cigarettes to people under sixteen years of age, our aim is to help the children make their own decision not to smoke simply because they believe it is the wrong lifestyle to choose.

- 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, e.g. when we teach them about how medicines can help the body. When such an issue arises, the class teacher deals with it in context, and answers the children's questions to the best of his/her ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided.

4 Staff, Visitors and Pupils

- Smoking is illegal on the school site. It is not permitted anywhere on the school site (buildings or grounds) by any persons at any time (including staff, pupils, visitors, parents and contractors). Smoking will not be tolerated at entrances and exits.
- Smoking is not permitted by anyone accompanying pupils on educational visits.
- Any member of staff who wishes to smoke, must leave the school site. Should we find any member of staff smoking at school, we would consider this a serious breach of their terms of employment. Disciplinary action will be taken against staff who disregard this policy in accordance with the School Disciplinary Policy.
- Staff should not recharge or store/leave vaping / e cigarettes and ancillary associated items unattended on the school site (e.g. at the end of a day, overnight/at weekend) due to the high fire risk.
- Visitors who wish to smoke are reminded that this is a no smoking site through obvious signage across the school site. Other signage will be used for public events held on the school site. Any person found smoking on the school site will be asked to leave immediately.
- Smoking is not permitted in company vehicles or any vehicles being used on School business.
- All visitors, contractors and deliverers are required to abide by the non smoking policy. Staff members are expected to inform visitors of the no-smoking policy. However they are not expected to enter into any confrontation which may put their personal safety at risk.

When we refer to smoking we also include the usage of vaping/electronic cigarettes (e-cigs) as pupils cannot always differentiate between what is or is not real and the action of vaping/smoking one of these e-cigs is enough to mislead pupils.

5 Monitoring and review

- It is the role of the Head teacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. The Governors review this policy as part of their monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's PSHE programme.

Policy adopted :

Policy Review:

