

# No Smoking Policy

## Low Ash Primary School



<b>Approved by:</b>	The Governing Body	<b>Date</b> 30.1.20
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>		
<b>Next review due by:</b>	Spring Term 2024	

## 1. Introduction

At Low Ash Primary School we acknowledge that smoking is harmful to health, and so we strongly discourage our children from taking up smoking. The school is a non-smoking establishment in order to promote a healthy working and learning environment for all children and adults. 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 Rationale

- 2.1 The Health Act 2006 (as amended) introduced legislation to make all enclosed workplaces and public places free from smoke from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Passive smoking, breathing in smoke from other people's cigarettes, has been shown to cause cancers, heart and breathing difficulties in non-smokers. It is also known that smoking is harmful to the unborn babies of mothers who smoke. Low Ash Primary School acknowledges that second hand tobacco smoke is both a public and work-place health hazard and has, therefore, adopted this non-smoking policy.
- 2.4 Low Ash Primary School is in an ideal position to influence the health of the school community we serve. Our ethos, combined with the messages given as part of our drugs education (within PSHCE Policy), have key roles to play in reducing smoking amongst children, young people, staff and visitors. We also aspire to reduce the incidence of smoking amongst wider family members by giving messages about the dangers of passive smoking.

## 3 Aims and objectives

We aim to:

- guarantee a smoke-free working environment (thereby complying with health and safety legislation and employment law) to protect the current and future health of children, staff and visitors to the school;
- 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;
- signpost to organisations which can support the needs of smokers who wish to stop.

## 4 Restrictions on smoking

- 4.1 Smoking (which includes the use of e-cigarettes) is not permitted in any part of the school premises, including the school grounds. Smoking is strongly discouraged at entrances and exits i.e. school gates.

- 4.2 If a member of staff, visitor or any other 3<sup>rd</sup> party wishes to smoke, they must leave the school site. A breach of this policy will be seen as a variance from acceptable standards of behaviour and will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.
- 4.3 No smoking signs are displayed in the school building and within the school grounds. Staff members are expected to remind anyone smoking on the school site of our no smoking policy, but not to enter into any confrontation which may put their personal safety at risk.
- 4.4 Staff, and any other adults (including parents/carers) accompanying children on educational visits, are not permitted to smoke (including e-cigarettes) during the visit to ensure that smoking is not presented as acceptable outside school premises. Furthermore, we do not wish to present adult smokers as role models. On residential visits, an adult who wishes to smoke should leave the site to do so, ensuring that they cannot be seen by children and that adequate supervision is in place.
- 4.5 It is expected that any 3<sup>rd</sup> party used by the school to provide services, such as drivers of transport (taxi, coach, bus) do not smoke in the presence of anyone associated with the school. Written assurance of this has been requested / received from companies used regularly by the school and they have received a copy of this policy.

## **5 Organisation**

- 5.1 We teach children about the dangers of smoking as part of their personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) programme, with advice and support from the school nurse and/or healthy schools advisors. 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. He or she 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.
- 5.2 The dangers of smoking sometimes arise as an issue in science lessons, 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 their ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided.
- 5.3 Parents/carers may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school. Whenever possible, we use the expertise of external professionals to support parents/carers and to help them to educate their children.
- 5.4 If children are found to be smoking in school, or cigarettes are found in their possession, the cigarettes are confiscated from the child and a parent/carer is informed immediately. An initial occurrence would be treated as an opportunity for education, however subsequent offences may incur a fixed term exclusion.

## **6. Lettings**

When the school is used for a letting or fundraising function, it is on the strict understanding that smoking (including e-cigarettes) is not allowed on the school premises. The school policy will be given to any 3<sup>rd</sup> party using the school premises which must be signed and dated to show agreement.

## **7. Implementation**

**7.1** Every member of teaching and non-teaching staff will be provided with access to this policy. Pupils will be made aware that smoking (including e-cigarettes) is not permitted on school premises and that it is a danger to health through specific PSHCE lessons, health-related science lessons and others areas of the curriculum where such discussion is relevant. Staff will also react in accordance with the school policy when engaged in discussions about smoking with individual children. Visitors to the school will be made aware of the policy through the use of no smoking signs.

**7.2** All new staff will be made aware of this policy upon initial arrival to the school during induction procedures. It will be the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that this occurs formally.

## **8. Advice on stopping smoking**

The school can signpost to support for stopping smoking through liaison with the school nurse.

## **9. Monitoring and review**

It is the role of the headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. The governors will review this policy every five years as part of their cycle of policy review.

**Policy reviewed and adopted January 2020**

**Signed:..... Chair of Governors**

**Next Review Date: March 2024**