

West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'



Smoking Policy

How this policy was developed

This policy has been informed by the UK School smoking policy. It has been developed through a full consultation process with pupils, staff, parents and governors.

Statement of policy on smoking

West Park regards itself as a Health Promoting School. It recognises that its staff acts as role-models for pupils in all aspects of school life, including health promotion.

Second-hand smoking – breathing in other people’s smoke, has now been shown to cause lung cancer and heart disease in non smokers, as well as many other illnesses and minor conditions.

This school acknowledges that breathing in other people’s tobacco smoke is both a public health hazard and welfare issue. Therefore, we wish to move towards an agreed smoking policy.

Rationale

- Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in our society.
- Passive smoking – breathing other people’s tobacco smoke – is also potentially fatal. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, as well as many other illnesses, in non-smokers.
- Smoking is a health and safety issue for all adults who use the school; staff and parents.
- Everyone has the right to breathe clean air, and non-smokers are in the majority.
- Schools have a major role to play in working towards non-smoking being seen as the norm in society.
- Children need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models within the school.

Objectives

- To protect non-smokers from the adverse effects of environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace.
- To educate staff and pupils in understanding the risks and effects of tobacco use (for further details on curriculum content see school’s Drug Education Policy).
- To demonstrate the school’s commitment to promoting the health of pupils and staff.
- To ensure a consistent whole-school approach when dealing with smoking related incidents.
- To provide information and advice for those who wish to stop smoking.

Restrictions on smoking

All staff, pupils, parents and visitors to the School may not smoke while on school premises or whilst engaged in school related activities outside the school.

- Clearly worded signs will be sited to announce the policy.
- Staff members will inform visitors of the policy when necessary.

School premises utilised outside normal working hours:

When school premises are used for purposes other than school related activities the school smoking policy will still remain in operation.

Procedures

- Staff smoking in school will be subject to the disciplinary procedures set out in The Staff Disciplinary Policy.
- Pupils smoking in school will be subject to the Behaviour and Discipline Policy. The relevant passage reads:

‘With immediate effect anyone seen either smoking or stood near a smoker, either in school or in the vicinity of school, before, during or after school, will be ‘fined’ £15 which will be donated to Cancer Research. Unpaid fines will result in loss of breaktime until paid. I view smoking in school as an extreme violation of school expectations and if necessary it will be met with our strongest sanction for the persistent offender: permanent exclusion. I will not tolerate repeat offenders’.

- Smoking materials i.e. tobacco or cigarettes will be destroyed. Smoking paraphernalia: lighters, vaping equipment and so on will be confiscated and placed in the school safe until the day the pupil leaves school. A receipt will be issued and a letter will confirm the confiscation.

Implementing and monitoring

- Members of staff will be given a copy of the Policy, which will become part of their contract of employment.
- Pupils and parents will be informed of the Policy.
- Members of staff shall inform school visitors of the Policy.
- Signs and notices shall be posted in prominent positions throughout the school.

The school smoking policy will be monitored at least once per year by the Leadership Group in consultation with staff and a report made to the Governors. The Policy will be reviewed and, if appropriate, revised to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the school community.