

Low Furness CE Primary School

'Learning Together Through Faith'

Policy for a Smokefree School

Aim To create a Smokefree school environment.

Objectives

The objectives of the policy are:

- To provide a Smokefree school environment for everyone.
- To provide young people with a consistent message regarding tobacco and drug use and appropriate role models.

Rationale

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in the UK.

Second Hand smoke – 'breathing other people's tobacco smoke causes at least 1,000 people to die a year. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, heart disease and cause the onset of asthma, chest and ear infections and cot death in children. It also leads to over 50 children being admitted to hospital per day. 80% of smokers take up the habit as teenagers with 450 children starting smoking every day. (ASH)

The Government's White Paper 'Choosing health – making healthy choices,' identifies plans to place restrictions on smoking within the workplace.

The school, under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), has a duty of care to provide a healthy working environment.

Everyone has the right to a smoke-free environment.

Schools have a major role to play in health education and prevention.

Young people need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models within the school. It has been shown that the biggest factor affecting youth smoking is prevalence of adult smoking and young people's exposure to seeing smoking. (ASH, 2004)

Restrictions on smoking within the workplace

Smoking/vaping will NOT be permitted in any part of the school's premises, grounds or properties, including kitchens, within the entrance area to the school or on land adjacent to the school building (car park, garden areas, walkway etc.) where this forms part of the school premises. The term 'no smoking' applies equally to e-cigarettes.

The enforcement of this total smoking ban will be the responsibility of all designated responsible persons within the school. The school's disciplinary procedure will apply for dealing with employees who breach the smoking ban at work. Employees who raise genuine concerns about breaches of this policy will be protected from victimisation.

This policy applies to employees, parents, visitors, members of the public, contractors and other working in, or using the school's premises or vehicles.

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Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to leave the premises.

The smoking policy will apply to all activities held in the school including before and after school sessions and any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.

During working hours employees should avoid being seen smoking in public in sight of pupils, parents and visitors in order to reinforce a comprehensive approach.

Non-compliance by pupils will be dealt with in conjunction with the school's disciplinary procedure and overall Behaviour Policy.

Vehicles

The smoking ban will apply to all school owned/hired/leased vehicles. No-one will be allowed to smoke inside any school owned/hired/leased vehicles.

Drivers and their passengers are asked to refrain from smoking in their own vehicles, when used on school business and when carrying passengers.

Help with smoking cessation

The school will support employees in school wishing to give up smoking by advertising and promoting external smoking cessation services and through regular health promotion activities. The school will be provided, on request, with a specifically designed information pack designed to support school staff. Resources will also be available to educate pupils and free specialist advice regarding health promotion activity will be provided.

Education and Publicity

Suitable posters and No Smoking Signs will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a Smokefree working environment.

New buildings

This policy will apply equally to all future premises at the design stage of any new building, and refurbishment or relocation project.

Appointments

This school is a No Smoking School and this should be made clear within all its appointments procedures, staff handbooks and school prospectus.

Links

Health and Safety

The above policy on smoking at work forms part of the School's Health and Safety Policy arrangements.

Healthy Schools

The policy was developed in line with recommended good practice from the Healthy Schools initiative.

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Drug Education

Cigarettes contain tobacco which is a drug thus linking the School's Smokefree Policy to drug education and opportunities within the DFES guidance.

Cumbria County Council and Children's Services Directorate Policy

This Smoking Policy also complements the Policies on Smoking agreed by the county Council and Cumbria Children's Services Directorate.

Reviewing the policy

This policy will be reviewed every three years. Next review date: Autumn 2024