

St. John Bosco RC Primary School



Smoking Policy

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Smoking Policy

INTRODUCTION

At St John Bosco RC Primary School we believe that smoking is harmful to health, and so we strongly discourage our children from smoking. Consequently, the school site is a non-smoking establishment. This includes the use of E-Cigarettes.

St. John Bosco School regards itself as a health-promoting organisation. It recognises that staff act as role models for pupils in all aspects of school life, including health promotion. In light of the evidence that second hand smoke causes damage to health this policy has been implemented to:

- Protect the staff, children and young people and visitors from the effects of tobacco smoke.
- Acknowledge the educational role of the organisation in discouraging children and young people from starting to smoke.

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. Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in our society. It is estimated that approximately 120,000 smokers a year 3 die in the UK because of their smoking habit. 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. Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of second hand smoke and smoking is harmful to the unborn babies of mothers who smoke. Schools have a major role to play in working towards non-smoking being seen as the norm in society. 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.

1. 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.

2. ORGANISATION

We teach children about the dangers of smoking as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme, with advice and support from the Health Authority. 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. Staff lead all such discussions in a sensitive manner. They encourage 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, staff deal with it in context, and answer the children’s questions to the best of their ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided. Parents may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school.

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3. STAFF

We do not allow smoking on the school premises, as we do not want to present smoking as acceptable. Nor do we wish to present adult smokers as role models. Because of this if any member of staff wishes to smoke, s/he must leave the school site. Should we find any member of staff smoking at school, we would consider this a serious breach of the terms of employment. This includes the use of E-Cigarettes

Where smoking does take place outside, it must not be:

- directly outside the school buildings and gates;
- constitute a risk in terms of fire;
- or be adjacent to doors or windows where second hand smoke could enter the building.
- where possible the location will be out of public view.

4. VISITORS

The No Smoking Policy applies to all visitors to the school (including suppliers, supply or temporary staff and maintenance workers).

5. PARENTS AND CARERS

Parents and Carers must also adhere to the No Smoking Policy and refrain from smoking on the school grounds.

6. CHILDREN

Children are taught about the risks of smoking in PSHE and in science when learning about healthy bodies.

7. COMMUNICATING THE POLICY:

The following arrangements have been made for informing people of the policy's existence:

- Staff will be informed of the No Smoking Policy at recruitment.
- Staff members will inform visitors of the policy when necessary.

8. MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is the role of the Headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented.

Signed: _____

Designation: _____

Date: _____

Review Date: _____