

# **HOLYMEAD PRIMARY**

## **SMOKING POLICY**

**2 MARCH 2021**

### **1. Introduction**

There can be little doubt that attitudes towards smoking in public areas and at workplaces have changed dramatically over the past decade or so, following an increased concern about matters of health and safety generally and associated educational issues. More recently there have been specific concerns over the effects of “passive smoking” and a growing tendency among children and young people to smoke.

Smoking is known to be the principal avoidable cause of premature deaths in the UK. That is why the Government White Paper “Choosing Health: Making healthier choices easier”, promises new action to tackle tobacco and reduce the 106,000 deaths in the UK caused by smoking every year (86,500 in England).

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 all workplaces in England must be smoke free (Health Act 2006 and the smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement Regulations 2006). From that date it will be a criminal offence to smoke in a smoke-free place.

Bristol City Council operates a No Smoking Policy in its workplaces.

All references to smoking includes e-cigarettes and vaping.

### **2. Aims**

2.1 This school regards itself as a health-promoting organisation. It recognises that its staff act as role models for pupils in all aspects of school life, including health promotion. In the light of the evidence that second hand smoke causes damage to health this Smoking Policy has been implemented to;

- protect the staff, children and young people, visitors and contractors from the effects of tobacco smoke;
- acknowledge the educational role of the organisation in discouraging children and young people from starting to smoke;
- be a health promoting organisation
- raise awareness of the dangers of smoking through the Personal Social and Health Education Programme and
- help smokers to quit.

### 3. **Purpose**

3.1 The purpose of this Smoking Policy is to provide a healthy and safe working environment for all employees, pupils, parents, contractors and other visitors.

3.2 The intention is not to confront smokers but to encourage and help those that wish to give up. The issue is not whether someone smokes but where and when he or she smokes.

### 4. **Policy Statement**

4.1 The Council's maintained schools (Community, Voluntary Controlled, Community Special and maintained Nursery schools) are strongly recommended to adopt this model Smoking Policy. Non-maintained Schools (Foundation and Voluntary Aided Schools) may also wish to do so.

4.2 All employees have a duty to ensure as far as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of their employees. This duty is reflected in legislation, which places on the employer the requirement to assess risks to employees' health in the workplace and take appropriate remedial action.

4.3 In schools the discretion to set a smoking policy rests with the Governing Body. This document has been prepared to assist Governing Bodies in developing policies that are appropriate for their own school whilst recognising the Council's position on this matter. The Council operates a No Smoking Policy in its workplace.

4.4 Smoking is known to be a serious risk to health. It is a significant cause of disease and premature death. In addition there is now evidence that "passive smoking", the inhaling of other people's smoke, can cause lung cancer in non-smokers, as well as causing a deterioration of respiratory conditions.

### 5. **Whole School Ban**

5.1 This Smoking Policy would not allow any smoking within the boundaries of the school site at any time, by anyone – employees, parents or visitors, under any circumstances.

5.2 The Management Committee would need to agree to such a ban after consultation with staff. The basis of the ban would be that smoking constitutes a fire risk and is a proven hazard to the health of employees, both smokers and non-smokers, through passive smoking, and as such does not create a healthy environment for the children or staff of the school to work in.

5.3 It would be the responsibility of the head teacher or his/her representative(s) to enforce the policy at all times and to advise employees and ensure that visitors to the site comply with these arrangements.

5.4 Any contractor employed on site would be made aware of the ban before work is undertaken. It would be written into service specifications for contractors.

5.5 Smoking would not be permitted by any group hiring the school premises for functions or regular lettings and this would be written into the hire agreement.

5.6 The school would need to post notices reminding people that this is a smoke free site.

## **6. Support for employees**

6.1 The Management Committee recognises that staff who smoke may need support either to give up smoking or help control their smoking.

6.2 The school will make available to employees the NHS smoking helpline number to get free advice and for information on your nearest Stop Smoking Service on 0800 013 0845.

6.3 For staff finding it particularly difficult to adhere to this Smoking Policy, it may be appropriate to seek assistance from an Occupational Health Advisor.

## **7. Employee co-operation**

7.1 Staff are not allowed to smoke in the presence/sight of pupils or parents. This would include trips outside of school hours.

7.2 Staff are not allowed to smoke on school premises.

7.3 All new and prospective employees to be advised of the restrictions and rules regarding smoking at work through advertising material, the interview process and induction.

7.4 It is anticipated that all employees will comply with the Smoking Policy. In the circumstances where there is wilful contravention of the Smoking Policy, steps may be taken to invoke disciplinary procedures.

## **8. Outside agencies using the school premises**

8.1 The school Smoking Policy applies to all events held at the school.

## **9. Pupils**

9.1 Smoking among pupils during school hours is not permitted.

9.2 Smoking among pupils on school visits or trips is not permitted.

9.3 Help will always be provided to those pupils who want advice.

9.4 Pupils caught smoking will be put on a register of smokers and a disciplinary programme will be followed.

- Intervention by Pastoral Deputy
- Loss of privileges/supervision over free time
- Awareness session on the dangers of smoking
- Letter home to parents
- Details on support stop smoking services through leaflets
- Referral to a drop in session with school nurse
- Repetition or refusal to comply may result in fixed term exclusion

## 10. **Parents**

10.1 Parents to be informed of this Smoking Policy and any changes thereto through newsletters and other forms of communication.

## 11. **Signage**

11.1 Clearly word signs will be sited at the gates, entrance(s) and in prominent positions throughout the school premises.

## 12. **Review**

12.1 The School Smoking Policy will be monitored bi-annually with staff and governors.

Date: 3.3.21

Review: March 2023



Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health