

Non-Smoking Policy



Introduction:

At Bridgewater our policies are regularly reviewed. This reflects current practice within school and all related government guidance and statutory requirements.

We believe that the school is in an ideal position to influence the health of the community it serves. The school environment, the smoking education programme on offer and the messages given about tobacco have key roles to play in reducing smoking amongst young people, staff and visitors. Smoking is harmful to health, so we strongly discourage our children from smoking.

The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) requires that the school take reasonable measures to protect the health and safety of employees and members of the public visiting the school premises. To comply with this and local directives the school buildings and site are a non smoking (including e-cigarettes) environment.

Rationale

Children can be harmed by passive smoking, i.e. by inhaling smoke from other people's cigarettes. Research has shown that this can cause serious illness, for example; Lung cancer. Seventy per cent of children are exposed to other people's smoke when they go out, and thirty-four per cent are exposed to smoke in their own homes. It is known that smoking is harmful to the unborn babies of mothers who smoke. For all these reasons, our school does all it can to discourage children from smoking, and to educate them in such a way that they adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Since the Health Act of 2006, smoking in workplaces is now illegal.

Aim:

- to maintain a smoke free environment on the school site and in the school buildings.
- to help children know and understand the dangers of smoking, and the harmful effects that smoking can have on their bodies;
- to provide children with the knowledge and information necessary for them to make responsible choices in relation to smoking;
- to 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

Whole School Organisation and Management:

We address the dangers of smoking in Year 5&6, in our programme of personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE). We teach the children about the effects of smoking on the body, we engage them in discussions about the reasons why people start to smoke and what they should do if people encourage them to try cigarettes.

We will lead all discussions in a sensitive manner. We will encourage the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking.

We will explain that it is illegal for cigarettes to be sold to people under sixteen years of age, but our aim is for children to refrain from smoking not only for that reason, but also because we believe smoking is a wrong lifestyle choice.

We recognise that the delivery of tobacco education is not the sole responsibility of school. Parents and members of the wider community have much to offer and we aim to work effectively in partnership with parents and others in the wider community.

We will raise the dangers of smoking in science lessons in Key Stage 2, where we will teach children about the way substances affect the body.

Parents may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school

Staff and Visitors

We do not allow smoking (including e-cigarettes) on school premises or anywhere within school grounds

Any member of staff or visitor wishes to smoke must leave the school site.

If a member of staff is smoking in school, we would remind them of the school policy and how their behaviour impacts on the pupils. If this reminder is ignored, disciplinary action will be taken.

Should any visitor smoke on the premises they will be asked to stop and should they persist, they will be removed from the premises by the appropriate authorities.

Notices are posted at all entrances informing visitors of the school policy and all new members of staff receive a copy of the policy as part of their staff handbook.

Should anyone wish to view the non-smoking policy, copies are available at the main reception.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the Headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. Every two years the governors review this policy as part of their school improvement's committee's monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's PSHCE programme.

Agreed: October 2020

Review Date: Autumn 2023