

Mountfields Lodge Primary School



Smoke Free Policy

Aim High, Reach for the Sky

Smoke Free Policy

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, or when DfE legislation requires, or when requested by staff, governors or parents.

Policy Review: Spring 2023

Policy Review: Spring 2026

Smoke-free Policy – Mountfields Lodge Primary School

Policies linked to:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Drug Education/ Drug-Related Incidents Policy
- Behaviour Policy

The policy should be widely publicised and advertised so that everyone using the premises is aware of its content. (e.g. on school website, in the staff handbooks as part of staff induction and annual staff reminders).

Introduction

This policy provides guidance for members of the school community on why we are a smoke-free school. It has been developed with the need to protect the whole school community so that everyone can learn in a smoke-free environment. This policy applies to everyone using the premises (including all grounds and buildings) for any purpose, at any time.

From the 1st July 2007 all workplaces in England were required to be smoke free (Health Act 2006 and the Smoke -free (premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006). From that date it has been a criminal offence to smoke in a smoke - free place.

Aim

To prevent the uptake of, and reduce the prevalence of, smoking across the school community.

Objectives

The objectives of the policy are:

- To provide a smoke-free school environment for everyone
- To provide children, through the PSHE Curriculum, with consistent information about smoking and to prevent the uptake of smoking

Rationale

Smoking is the main cause of preventable morbidity and premature death in England. In 2007, it is estimated that 82,900 adults aged 35 or over died as a result of smoking. This translates into nearly two in ten deaths in England of people aged 35 and over (The Information Centre 2008).

The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater risk of developing life-threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease, if they continue smoking into adulthood. Those who start smoking before the age of 16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke as those who begin later in life – and are more likely to be heavier smokers (Muller 2007).

The process of becoming a regular smoker is not always constant – children and young people may stop and start the habit on a number of occasions before they come to identify themselves as someone who smokes.

Smoke-free school sites and non-smoking staff provide positive role models for children and young people and contribute to the development of a health-promoting school.

For the purposes of this policy 'smoking' also refers to all e-cigarettes.

Factors linked to smoking

Children and young people start to smoke and then continue for a number of reasons. These may be connected to their personal or social circumstances or to wider society. Personal factors include age, gender, socio-economic status, educational attainment and mental health.

Social circumstances, such as being surrounded by peers and family members who smoke, can also affect whether or not young people will take up smoking. For example, smoking among young people is strongly associated with living with one or more people who smoke. Many young people see smoking as the norm because they mistakenly believe it is more prevalent than it really is.

School premises

- Smoking is not permitted in any part of the school's premises and grounds including the entrance area to the school or on land adjacent to the school building (e.g. car parks, garden areas, walkway, playgrounds, playing fields etc). This policy will apply equally to future premises at the construction stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.
- There will be no designated smoking areas provided within the school buildings or grounds.
- This policy applies to pupils, employees, parents, visitors, members of the public, contractors or others working or using the school's premises.
- The smoke-free 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.
- Suitable posters, displays and statutory no smoking signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke-free working environment.

Vehicles

The smoking policy will apply to all school hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying students or staff on school business.

Non-compliance

- The school's disciplinary procedure as stated below will apply for dealing with staff and students who do not comply with the Smoke-free School status
- Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to smoke-free status.

Action:

If a pupil is found smoking or vaping on school premises the school will refer to their Behaviour Policy.

If a member of staff is found smoking or vaping they will be reminded of the school's No Smoking Policy. If they continue to smoke/vape they will be liable to the school's Disciplinary Policy and procedures.

If a non-member of staff on the premises is found smoking they will be reminded of the school's Smokefree Policy and asked to stop. If they continue to smoke they will be asked to leave the premises.

Assistance for those who smoke

Local NHS Stop Smoking Services are available to staff, parents and visitors who would like to stop smoking (please note: this service should not be seen as a disciplinary action). Group and one-to-one support is available for staff and parents through the NHS specialist Stop Smoking Service or through their GP Practice and selected pharmacies, as well as specially trained smoking in school and smoking pregnancy advisors. The Leicestershire County & Rutland NHS Stop Smoking Service may also be able to set up a group for parents and/or staff in our school upon request.

Further information from Leicestershire County & Rutland NHS specialist Stop Smoking Service can be given on all the above by phoning 0845 045 2828.