

Thorpe Hesley Primary School – Smoke Free Policy

SMOKE FREE POLICY

Smoking is not permitted in any part of the school premises or grounds, at any time, or by any person, regardless of their status or business within the school. Smoking including the use of E-Cigarettes is not permitted in any part of the school premises or grounds, at any time, or by any person, regardless of their status or business within the school.

Introduction

Children become aware of cigarettes at an early age; three out of four children are aware of cigarettes before they reach the age of five. Those who experiment with cigarettes can quickly become addicted to the nicotine in tobacco. They may show signs of addiction within four weeks of starting, even if they don't smoke every day.

Studies have shown that smoking just one cigarette in early childhood doubles the chance of a teenager becoming a regular smoker by the age of 17.

This school invests valuable resources in teaching pupils about the hazards of smoking through the curriculum. Pupils need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models in the adults who teach them, as well as a smoke free environment to protect them and the whole school community from the serious health risks of secondhand smoking.

Aims of the Policy

This policy seeks to:

- Guarantee a healthy working and learning environment and protect the current and future health of all members of the school community by eliminating the serious health risks associated with secondhand smoking
- Guarantee the right of non-smokers to breathe in air free from tobacco smoke
- Create a consistent learning environment by matching the ethos and behaviour within the school to the curriculum
- Change attitudes by promoting non-smoking as the norm and non-smokers as positive role models
- Comply with Health & Safety Legislation and Employment Law (Appendix 2)
- Raise awareness of the dangers of both smoking and secondhand smoking
- Take account of the needs of those who smoke and to support those who wish to stop

Restrictions on smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any part of the school premises or grounds at any time or by any person regardless of their status or business in the school.

Electronic Cigarettes or other replacements are not allowed on school premises.

During school trips¹ smoking is not permitted by any pupil² or by the adults accompanying the pupils.

¹ Laws regarding the age people are legally allowed to smoke is different in different countries

² Schools which have 6th forms may need to ensure everyone is clear about this point.

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Visitors

All visitors, contractors and deliverers are required to abide by the smoking policy. Staff members are expected to inform visitors of the school's no smoking policy, however they are not expected to enter into any confrontation that may put their personal safety at risk. No smoking signs displayed at the entrance to school should raise awareness that the school is a smoke free site.

Support for smokers

The number of young people smoking has been falling over recent years. However, the number of young smokers more than doubles when they reach 15 years. **-The majority of current smokers say they would like to stop.** *"Are we doing enough to support the majority of young smokers who say they want to give up? Or do we not really believe them?"*

³

Any smoker requiring help and support in giving up smoking is encouraged to seek the assistance of the school nurse or the local stop smoking service:

Rotherham (NHS) Stop Smoking Service (01709 422444)

Sanctions

- Pupils who are discovered smoking will be dealt with by the member of staff who has discovered them. Possible sanctions are seen in Appendix 1 and have been agreed in consultation with pupils, staff and parents. The class teacher/tutor should be notified about the incident to be able to have an overview of the number of occasions individual pupils are caught smoking and therefore ensure appropriate support/sanctions are in place.
- Staff and other adults who are discovered smoking will be referred to the Head teacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Information regarding illicit tobacco or underage sales

- If schools or individuals have any information about illicit tobacco or underage sales, Trading Standards can be contacted on (01709) 254955 . Any information can be given anonymously.

³ From 'Ash: Essential Information on Young People and Smoking' August 2009, 'Young People' reports, regarding 10-15 year olds in England up to 2006

Registered office: Thorpe Hesley Primary School, Upper Wortley Road, Rotherham, S61 2PL

Company Registration number 09061804



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Appendix 1:

Sanctions/Responses

Pupils will be consulted regarding their opinions of appropriate sanctions as this will raise awareness of the policy and consequences if caught smoking.

For further guidance see: '*Drugs: Guidance for schools*', Section 5 responding to incidents.'

'Any response should balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider school community, and aim to provide pupils with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals' ⁴

Possible responses could include:

- additional work (perhaps related to negative effects of smoking or to generally raise awareness of the negative effect of smoking)
- informing parents/carers of the incident e.g. letter home/telephone call
- asking parents/carers to come in to school

Appendix 2:

Summary of Smoke Free legislation

From summer 2007 the law in England states that virtually all workplaces, including company vehicles should be smoke free environments.

What workplaces are covered?

The legislation covers 'all premises, which are wholly or substantially enclosed, and used as a place of work by more than one person, including vehicles. Smoking rooms will no longer be allowed'.

Schools are likely to extend their Smoke Free Policy to include the school grounds and visits out of school.

Essentially the legislation ensures that almost all workers, regardless of their place of work, will be protected from the risks to health of exposure to tobacco smoke and guaranteed the right to smoke-free air.

What does the smoke-free legislation mean in practice?

Owners/managers must ensure their premises are smoke free. Required actions include putting up 'no smoking' signs which meet the following minimum standards:

⁴ Drugs: Guidance for Schools DfES 2004 section 5.4

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- displayed at each public entrance to the premises
- in a position that is prominently visible to persons entering the premises
- are A5 (148mm by 210mm) in size
- Include the international red “no smoking” symbol and the words: “No smoking. It is against the law to smoke in these premises.”

What about vehicles?

Vehicles used at a workplace by more than one person, regardless if they are not in the vehicle at the same time, will also have to be smoke-free at all times. This is because tobacco smoke is absorbed into soft furnishings and stays around for weeks long after a cigarette has been stubbed out.

All vehicles will need to prominently display ‘no-smoking’ signs.

What are the penalties for non compliance?

Enforcement authorities e.g. environmental health officers will be authorised to issue the following penalties:

- Failure to display minimum no smoking signs: up to £1000 or a fixed penalty notice of £200
- Smoking in a no-smoking place: up to £200 or a penalty notice of £50
- Failing to prevent smoking in a smoke-free place: up to £2500

What help is there for those who want to stop smoking?

Rotherham NHS Stop Smoking service is offering support to all who would like to give up smoking.

Telephone Rotherham NHS Stop Smoking Service
01709 422444

For further enquiries contact:

Smoking Cessation Service Manager
Rotherham Community Health Centre
Greasbrough Road
Rotherham
S60 1RY
Tel: 01709 423249

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Illicit and counterfeit tobacco products and under-age sales

01709 254955

**Do you know where people are selling
illicit cigarettes or tobacco?**

**Do you know shops who sell cigarettes and
tobacco to people under 18 years?**

Trading Standards Services are warning the public about buying counterfeit cigarettes, tobacco and cigars. Selling counterfeit cigarettes, tobacco and cigars is against the law.

Counterfeit cigarettes increase the availability of tobacco, encouraging smokers to maintain their habit and children and young people to start. Although they look genuine, counterfeit cigarettes are made from inferior materials and can therefore be sold cheaply. Tests on counterfeit hauls have revealed the cigarettes contained up to 60% more tar, 80% more nicotine and 133% more carbon monoxide than legitimate products.

Suddenly that 'bargain' doesn't seem as desirable!

Trading Standards Officers across South Yorkshire are increasingly encountering counterfeit and illicit tobacco products in the region. Recent investigations have involved retail premises, street sellers and in some cases, residential properties, with officers netting thousands of illegal items. Seizures have included 40 kilograms of fake rolling tobacco, and hundreds of packs of illegal cigarettes.

**To report the sale of illicit / counterfeit cigarettes or
tobacco products in Rotherham, contact your local
Trading Standards Service on 01709 254955.**

This can be done anonymously.



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