

Smoke Free Policy

1 Introduction

1.1 At Tatham Fells CE (VC) Primary School, we believe that smoking is harmful to health, so we strongly discourage our children from smoking. Consequently, the school is a non-smoking establishment. In addition to this, one of the County Council's corporate objectives is to make Lancashire a place where people can live healthy lives. To help to realise this objective, the County has approved the principle of being smoke-free in relation to the delivery of its services in order to reduce the harm to health caused by tobacco. The Governing Body of Tatham Fells C.E. (Voluntary Controlled) School shares the same belief and has decided to adopt the policy set out below:

- Smoking is not allowed at any time when employees are at work
- Smoking is banned in the School's premises and grounds and in any school vehicles used for transporting pupils, employees, parents and visitors;
- Smoking is not allowed by employees or others on land owned or controlled by the County Council or the School e.g. car parks, playing fields, playgrounds;
- Visitors and Governors are reminded that the school in conjunction with the County Council is smoke-free and they are requested not to smoke near any access point, doorway or window fronting onto public roads or land.
- This Smoke-free Policy will be brought to the attention of partnership organisations, businesses providing services and other stakeholders who may interact with the school's employees and their co-operation in implementing both the spirit and letter of the policy will be requested.

2 Rationale

2.1 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, and they can become addicted within days, from just one or two cigarettes. Smoking is regarded by the medical profession as the major cause of many illnesses. It is estimated that approximately 120,000 smokers a year die in the UK because of their smoking habit. Children can be harmed by passive smoking, i.e. by inhaling smoke from other people's cigarettes. Seventy per cent of children are exposed to other people's smoke when they go out, and 34 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.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 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.

4 Organisation

- 4.1 The dangers of smoking are addressed in Year 6, in our programme of personal, social and health education (PSHE), 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 should do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes. The children's class teacher leads all such discussions in a sensitive manner. S/he encourages the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking. We explain that it is illegal for cigarettes to be sold to people under 16 years of age, but our aim is for children to refrain from smoking not only for that reason, but also because they believe that smoking is a wrong lifestyle choice.
- 4.2 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. When such an issue arises, class teachers 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.
- 4.3 Parents and carers may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school. We make these materials readily available at our annual presentation to parents and carers of Year 6 children about the PSHE curriculum.

5 School staff

- 5.1 We do not allow smoking on any part of the school site, including the staffroom. If any members of staff do wish to smoke, they must leave the school site. Should any member of staff be found smoking on the school premises in contravention of this policy, we would consider this a serious breach of the terms of employment.

6 Information

Free help and information is available from:

- Local NHS Stop Smoking Services
- GP Surgeries
- The NHS Smoking Helpline 0800 169 0169
- The County Council's School Portal
- The Lancashire Healthy Schools Website – www.lhsp.org.uk

7 Breaches of the Policy

Breaches of this policy by school staff may lead to disciplinary action being taken.

8 Monitoring and review

- 8.1 It is the role of the headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. Every two years, or earlier if necessary, the governors review this policy as part of their curriculum committee's monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's PSHE programme.

Tatham Fells CE (VC) Primary School

Smoking and Smoke Free Policy

Signed (Headteacher):

Signed (On behalf of the Governing Body):

Date: September 2013

Review date: September 2017