

St George's School, Bourton

SMOKING POLICY

Introduction

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 the 1st July 2007 all workplaces in England became smoke free (Health Act 2006 and the Smoke -free (premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006). From this date it became a criminal offence to smoke in a smoke - free place.

Aims

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 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;
- ◆ to 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.

Purpose

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

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.

Policy Statement

All employers 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

The discretion to set this smoking policy rests with the Governing Body.

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.

Whole School Ban

Smoking is not permitted within the boundaries of the school site at any time, by anyone – employees, parents or visitors, under any circumstances.

Smoking is not permitted in any vehicle containing pupils.

There is a whole school ban on smoking because 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.

It is the responsibility of the headteacher 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.

Any contractor employed on site will be made aware of the ban before work is undertaken.

Smoking is not permitted by any group hiring the school premises for functions or regular lettings.

Support for employees

The Governing Body recognises that staff who smoke may need support either to give up smoking or help control their smoking.

The School makes 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.

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

Employee co-operation

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

Staff are not allowed to smoke on school premises.

Staff will be given 3 months notice of any changes to this Smoking Policy.

All new and prospective employees will be advised of the restrictions and rules regarding smoking at work.

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

Outside agencies using the school premises

The school Smoking Policy applies to all social events.

Pupils

Smoking among pupils during school hours is not permitted.

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

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

A disciplinary programme will be followed where a pupil is caught smoking:

- Intervention by Head
- Loss of privileges.
- Awareness session on the dangers of smoking.
- Letter home to parents
- Details on support stop smoking services given
- Referral to a drop in session with school nurse
- Repetition or refusal to comply may result in fixed term exclusion.

Parents

Parents will be informed of any changes to this policy through newsletters and other forms of communication.

Review

The School Smoking Policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body every three years.

This policy was reviewed by the Premises Committee on 19th January 2015