

**Reviewed: April 2018**

## **Smoke Free Policy**

**This policy has been informed by the UK School smoking policy and is denoted as good practice. It has been developed through a full consultation process with pupils, staff, parents and Management Committee.**

This policy applies to smoking on the school grounds (both indoor and outdoor) and in vehicles used for work purposes. It applies to all substances that can be smoked, including cigarettes, herbal cigarettes, cigars, and also to electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes.

### **Responsibilities**

Northumberland Pupil Referral Unit regards itself as a health-promoting school. It recognises that the unit's staff act as role-models for pupils in all aspects of school life, including health promotion.

Second hand smoking – breathing in other people's smoke, has now been shown to cause lung cancer & heart disease in non smokers, as well as many other illnesses & minor conditions.

The PRU acknowledges that breathing in other people's tobacco smoke is both a public health hazard and welfare issue. Therefore, we wish to move towards an agreed smoke free school policy.

The Health Act 2006 introduced legislation to make all enclosed workplaces and public places smoke free from 1 July 2007. The smoke free school policy enhances this legislation by incorporating the grounds of the P.R.U. as well as the buildings. The PRU is looking to gain Healthy School Status and a smoke free site is one component of Healthy Schools.

### **Rationale**

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill-health in our society.

Passive smoking - breathing other people's tobacco smoke - is also potentially fatal. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, as well as many other illnesses, in non-smokers.

Smoking is a health and safety issue for all adults who use the school: staff, parents and visitors.

Everyone has the right to breathe clean air, and non-smokers are in the majority.

Schools have a major role to play in working towards non-smoking being seen as the norm in society.

Children need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models within the school.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

- to protect non smokers from the adverse health effects of environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace

- to demonstrate the school's commitment to promoting the health of pupils and staff
- to raise awareness of the need to formally address tobacco issues within the whole school approach
- to provide information and advice for those who wish to stop smoking (pupils are taught the health implications of smoking and further follow up with support and advice on stopping smoking is accessed through the School Health Service.)

## **Restrictions on smoking**

### **Staff**

All staff - teaching, peripatetic, support and non-teaching and pupils may not smoke while on school premises.

### **Pupils**

The present rules for forbidding smoking while on school premises or while engaged in school related activities outside the school will remain unchanged.

### **Parents**

Parents may not smoke while on school premises. Letters are sent home to parents informing them of the policy. Information on Smoke Free School Policy is written into P.R.U. school brochure, a copy of which is given to all parents when their child starts their placement at the unit. The policy is available in the Headteacher's office, the general office and a copy is available on request.

### **Visitors**

The smoking policy applies to all visitors to the school - for example, parents, suppliers, supply or temporary staff, contractors and other agencies.

- Staff members will inform visitors of the policy when necessary.

### **Educational and Off Site Visits:**

The prohibition of smoking will apply during related school activities undertaken outside school premises, e.g. Educational Visits. The prohibition of smoking applies to all pupils and anyone accompanying them on all off site visits.

When school premises are used for purposes other than school related activities the school smoking policy will still remain in operation.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Implementing and monitoring:**

- Members of staff will be given a copy of the Policy, which will become part of their contract of employment. If a member of staff chooses to smoke on the school premises, and grounds, they will be given a written warning and advised that they may face disciplinary proceedings if they choose not to comply with the Smoke Free School Policy.
- Parents will be informed of the Policy, when their child starts their placement at the P.R.U. Parents will be advised that if their child brings smoking materials to school, they will be confiscated and not returned to the pupil. Parents are advised that if they wish the materials to be returned, they must collect them. If they are not collected that half term, by a responsible adult, all materials will be destroyed.
- Pupils are advised of the 'no smoking school policy' when they start their placement at the unit. They are further advised that if they bring smoking materials to school, these will be

confiscated and their parent/carers will have to collect the materials if they want them returned. If the parent/carers chooses not to collect the materials, they will be destroyed.

- Pupils are advised that if they are caught smoking on school premises or out of school on educational visits, their smoking materials will be confiscated and sanctions put in place, i.e. loss of privileges, changes in individual risk assessments.
- Members of staff shall inform school visitors of the Policy. If a visitor is not complying with the policy, they will be requested to comply with the policy or to leave the site.
- Signs and notices shall be posted in prominent positions throughout the school premises.

Every member of the school community is expected to take responsibility for the implementation of this policy.

Pupils and staff are advised that if they would like support and advice on smoking cessation, they can request this through the Support Services Manager. The staff in each class will refer pupils to the School Nurse/School Health Service if needed. Permission should be sought from parents/carers/pupils beforehand.

Stop Smoking support is available by contacting:

- Local Stop Smoking Service 01670 813135
- NHS Helpline 0800169016
- ASH Action on Smoking 02077395902

The school smoking policy will be monitored at least once per year by the Senior Management Team of the school in consultation with staff and a report made to the unit Management Committee. The Policy will be reviewed and, if appropriate, revised to ensure that it continues to meet the general principal.

**Consultation:**

This policy has been developed and agreed in consultation with the PRU Senior Management Team, Management Committee, Parents and Pupils.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**