

Policy on Smoking

1. Introduction

This policy prohibits smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes or other tobacco products on the School site.

Any references to smoking in this policy include all of the above, including “vaping”

At William Austin Junior School, we value the health and welfare of all within our community as a key priority.

We believe that a healthy and safe environment is important in terms of physical well-being, and is also a vital factor in promoting emotional health, which in turn will affect the raising of standards.

It is important to the Governing Body, that our policy and approach to smoking and the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) should reflect changing social attitudes, and actively reflect and support our goals for effective and lasting drugs education.

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

2. **Aims**

The policy seeks to:

- Guarantee a healthy working environment and protect the current and future health of employees, members and visitors
- Guarantee the right of non-smokers to breathe in air free from tobacco smoke
- To comply with Health & Safety Legislation and Employment Law
- Raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke
- Take account of the needs of those who smoke and to support those who wish to stop

This school regards itself as a health-promoting organisation. It recognises that their staffs 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;

- satisfy section 2(2)(e) of the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974, which places a duty on employers to provide a working environment for employees that is 'safe, without risks to health, and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work'
- comply with the smoke free legislation under the Health Act 2006, which from 1st July 2007 has placed a duty on 'any person who controls or is concerned in the management of smoke-free premises' to ensure compulsory signage is displayed in the required places and smoking is prevented in all 'enclosed' or 'substantially enclosed' premises
- take account of the needs of those who are addicted to smoking and to offer an avenue of support for those who wish to stop.
- highlight to all who use this school's site (buildings and grounds) that it is a 'smoke free' environment
- raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke and reinforce the school's health education programme

3 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.

We will take account of the needs of those who are addicted to smoking and to offer an avenue of support for those who wish to stop. The issue is not whether someone smokes but where and when he or she smokes.

4 Policy Statement

All employees 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.

In schools the discretion to set a 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.

5. Whole School Ban

This Smoking Policy will not permit any smoking within the boundaries of the school site at any time, by anyone – employees, parents or visitors, under any circumstances.

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 will be the responsibility of the Headteacher or 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. It will be written into service specifications for contractors.

Smoking will not be permitted by any group hiring the school premises for functions or regular lettings and this is written into the hire agreement.

The school will post notices reminding people that this is a smoke free site.

6. 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 will make available to employees the NHS smoking helpline website address where they can get free advice and information: <http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree/help-and-advice/local-support-services-helplines>

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

7. Employee co-operation

Staff are requested not to smoke in view of pupils during school hours (or just before/after) even if they are not on the school site in order not to portray smoking as acceptable and particularly since they may be viewed as role models by children. This would include trips and residential visits outside of school hours.

Staff are not allowed to smoke on school premises.

All new and prospective employees to be advised of the restrictions and rules regarding smoking at work through advertising material, the interview process and induction.

This policy will be included on the school website.

This Smoking Policy to be incorporated into the standard terms and conditions of employment for all employees.

8. Contractors, visitors and other users of the school site

- Contractors and users of the school site will be informed of the school's no smoking policy during the making of arrangements to carry out work or use the school site.
- Contractors, visitors and users of the school site will be discouraged from smoking at exits and entrances to the school grounds, especially in view of pupils, in order not to undermine the school's no-smoking policy or to portray smoking as acceptable.
- Smoking inside work vehicles on site is not permitted.
- Breaches of the school's no-smoking policy by contractors will be reported to the relevant company via the Headteacher.
- When events are booked, individuals are made aware of the Smoking Policy.

9. 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.
- Pupils caught smoking will be disciplined and their parents informed. Repetition or refusal to comply may result in fixed term exclusion.

10. Parents

Parents to be informed of this Smoking Policy and any changes thereto through newsletters, and other forms of communication.

11. Signage

Clearly word signs will be sited at the gates, entrance(s) and in prominent positions throughout the school premises.

12. Review

The School Smoking Policy will be monitored annually by the Headteacher in consultation with staff and a report made to the Governing Body.

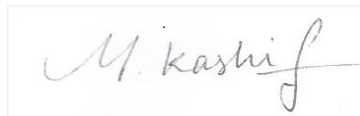
This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Headteacher on an annual basis.

Policy updated: May 2022

Staff responsible: Sally Bacon

This policy was ratified by the Governing Body on: 25th May 2022

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:



M. Kashif - Chair of Governors

(signature)

(printed)