

# Anti-Smoking Policy

## Ellesmere Port Catholic High School



Approved by:	Mr J Coucill, Chair of Governors	
Lead of Review:	Mrs J Jones, Director of Care & Engagement	
Last reviewed on:	July 2021	
Next review due by:	July 2022	

Smoking is particularly damaging in pupils. Evidence shows that people who start smoking in their youth, particularly between the ages of 11 and 15, are three times more likely to die a premature death than someone who takes up smoking at the age of 20. They are also more likely to be hooked for life. Nicotine, an ingredient of tobacco, is highly addictive. It takes, on average, about six cigarettes before nicotine receptors in the brain are switched on, generating a craving for nicotine which may continue for the rest of the person's life. In less than one packet of cigarettes, a person's brain can be changed forever from that of a non-smoker to a nicotine addicted smoker.

At Ellesmere Port Catholic High School we take the health of all our pupils and staff very seriously and as such, we seek to:

- Protect our staff, pupils and visitors from the effects of tobacco smoke.
- Provide a healthy, clean and safe working environment for all employees, pupils, parents, contractors and other visitors.
- Acknowledge our educational role in discouraging pupils from starting to smoke.
- Support the efforts of pupils and staff to improve their health through the cessation of smoking and will promote non-smoking through curriculum materials, assemblies and appropriate displays, as well as the use of the School Nurse.
- Build an effective partnership between school, parents and pupils and will inform parents/carers about the non-compliance of their children with this policy.
- Challenge the behaviour of those pupils and parents who give low priority to the elimination of smoking on school premises.
- Comply with anti-smoking legislation, namely Smoke-Free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006 and that from the 1st July 2007 all workplaces in England must be smoke free, rendering it a criminal offence to smoke on the school premises.

## **Aims**

1. To enable all pupils and staff to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes towards smoking.
2. To provide a programme of education and accurate information about the health risks associated with smoking.
3. To seek to minimise the risks and possible legal consequences for pupils and staff from smoking in prohibited places.
4. To enable pupils and staff to identify sources of appropriate personal support to help with the cessation of smoking and these support mechanisms are open to them when they are needed.
5. To monitor, as far as possible, pupil and staff involvement in smoking in order to inform school programmes for prevention.
6. To have clear procedures for dealing with anyone found smoking on the premises or in the case of pupils found to be in possession of smoking materials, to ensure that such procedures are consistent and clearly understood.
7. To ensure an adequate programme for Personal, Social Education & Health, with appropriate resourcing and staff training is in place to help pupils make informed decisions about smoking.
8. To ensure that pupils, staff, parents, contractors and any other visitors are informed about the school's policy and procedures relating to smoking.
9. To ensure that both penalties for smoking on the school site and support procedures are consistently and fairly applied.
10. To enter into a contract with parents, carer and pupils which clearly identifies the responsibilities of all involved and that this contract is signed by both school and pupils.

## **Policy**

The school is designated a no-smoking site and everyone involved with the school community is required to adhere to this Anti-Smoking Policy. The following will apply:

### **Pupils**

- Pupils are not allowed to smoke on or near the school site.
- Pupils are not allowed to smoke whilst on a school activity/trip/placement/work experience.
- Pupils must not smoke whilst travelling to or from school.

### **Staff**

- Staff are not allowed to smoke on site or in sight of pupils. This will include visits, school excursions etc., and include both teaching and non-teaching staff.
- This policy will also apply to employees whilst exercising direct responsibility for students on off-site activities, e.g. in the school mini-bus, school fixtures etc.

### **Parents, Carers, Visitors & Contractors**

- Parents, carers, visitors & contractors are required to adhere to the Anti-Smoking Policy and must not smoke within the school grounds.

All staff and pupils are expected to be vigilant in reporting the names of pupils found smoking, or the names of pupils found with pupils smoking and for relevant staff to ensure that the Anti-Smoking Procedure is applied.

## **Smoking**

Smoking is classed as:

- Being seen smoking (either tobacco or e-cigarette [vaping]) in school, on the school site or outside of the school site in school uniform.
- Being seen with a lit cigarette in their possession.
- Being found to have cigarettes and / or other smoking materials openly in their possession.
- Bringing cigarettes / smoking materials onto the premises.
- Associating with others who have been caught in the act of smoking.

## **E-cigarettes**

Electronic cigarettes mimic the effects of real cigarettes by producing a vapour that is potentially less harmful than cigarette smoke and free of some of its damaging substances, such as tar. However, experts state that it is not yet known what harm these devices could inflict on pupils' health and their contents could be damaging to their long term health.

Because they are not regulated, the contents of e-cigarettes can vary. Some have been found to contain toxic chemicals which are also found in tobacco and have been linked to cancer. Moreover, as these devices mimic the effects of real cigarettes, it is often difficult to tell from a distance whether a person is smoking a real cigarette or an e-cigarette. For these reasons, all forms of e-cigarettes are also banned from the Ellesmere Port Catholic High School site. Therefore, this policy also applies to pupils or staff members found smoking any form of e-cigarette.

## **Sanctions**

### **Staff**

Disciplinary procedures may be followed if a member of staff does not comply with this policy. Staff may also be liable to a fixed penalty fine and possible criminal prosecution.

### **Visitors**

Visitors who do not comply with this policy will be asked to leave the premises. Refusal to comply with this request may result in the Police or Local Enforcement Officer being informed.

### **Pupils**

1. If pupils are found to be smoking on site they will receive a sanction as soon as possible from the time of transgression. This sanction will be in the form of a 1 day in the Inclusion Room (for a first offence).
2. A report of the incident will be completed by the relevant member of staff and this slip will be reported to the Pastoral Hub along with cigarettes, e-cigarettes, lighters and any other equipment that has been confiscated (this will not be returned to the pupil).
3. The Pastoral Leaders will record the incident on school's information management system (Arbor).
4. Attendance at a 'Smoking Awareness' session with the School Nurse will be organised by the Pastoral Leader.
5. Parents/carers of the pupil concerned will be notified by phone in the first instance.
6. School Nurse will record attendance at 'Smoking Awareness' session. Pastoral Leaders should be notified of any non-attendance at 'Smoking Awareness' session.

### **Continued & Persistent Smoking (additional sanctions)**

1. Further repetition or refusal to comply with the Anti-Smoking Policy will result in a step out to a partner school.
2. Parents/carers of the pupil concerned will be notified by phone in the first instance.
3. A further referral will be made to the School Nurse for smoking cessation.
4. A meeting between parents/carers and the Pastoral Leader will be scheduled. At this meeting parents/carers and the student will be required to sign the Anti-Smoking contract stating that they will support the school's Anti-smoking Policy.
5. Persistent refusal to comply will result in a Fixed-Term exclusion. In addition to the exclusion letter parents will be notified by letter of possible enforcement of school's Anti-Smoking Policy.

## **Enforcement**

The school may choose to seek assistance from the Local Enforcement Officer or the Police in pursuing a statutory fixed penalty notice. In extreme cases where the school sanctions appear to be having no effect on certain pupils and their smoking behaviour, parents may be asked to collect and supervise their child over the periods of free time or when the smoking is taking place.

## **Support**

The school takes its responsibilities in supporting staff and pupils to maintain their health and wellbeing seriously and the following are some of strategies in place to help with the cessation of smoking.

1. The NHS offers a range of services to help smokers to give up. Visit [www.gosmokefree.co.uk](http://www.gosmokefree.co.uk) or call the NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0 169 for details. Alternatively you can text 'GIVE UP' and your full postcode to 88088 to find your local NHS Stop Smoking Service.
2. Pupils in school can access the School Nurse for help and advice. A School Health Advisor is also available on Mondays.
3. The school may offer a peer mentor to pupils who feel they would benefit from the support of another young person.
4. Local Pharmacies are supportive of people trying to give up smoking some provide a smoking cessation service free of charge to pupils below the age of 16.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Anti-Smoking Contract**

We at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School are committed to providing the highest quality of education and social development for our pupils to ensure their emotional and physical well-being. We are committed to the compliance with anti-smoking legislation, namely Smoke-Free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006 and that all workplaces in England must be smoke free, rendering it a criminal offence to smoke on the school premises.

#### **What we will do:**

- Help all pupils to make healthy, informed choices by helping them to learn about the dangers and health risks associated with smoking and by challenging attitudes towards smoking.
- Help our young people to get appropriate personal support to help them to stop smoking

#### **What parents will do:**

- Support you through encouragement, rewards and incentives to ensure you do the right thing.
- Listen and help you and not to be judgemental.
- Help the school to support you.

#### **What you will do:**

- Refrain from bringing any smoking related material into school including cigarettes, lighters, matches, tobacco, cigarette papers, e-cigarettes or any such like material.
- Remain within the allowed bounds of the school yards and spaces and not venture into spaces deemed to be 'out of bounds'.
- Engage with all the strategies that school deploy in order to help you to stop smoking including attending any sessions with the school nurse, working with outside agencies who have expertise in this area or any other strategy that school uses for the purposes of support.

I understand that the school has a duty of care and a legal responsibility to take these measures to prevent me from smoking on school premises. I am also aware of the seriousness of the position I find myself in and understand that further transgression may result in my exclusion from school during break and lunchtimes and the problems this will cause for the people who care for me.

I ..... agree to abide by the conditions above.

Signed ..... Date .....

Parent/carer signature:

Signed ..... Date .....

Signed on behalf of the school: