

SHAW WOOD ACADEMY



NON SMOKING POLICY

Date Prepared : February 2018	Prepared By : MR	Reviewed Date : February 2020
Approved By Governors :	Signed By Chair :	Dated By Chair :

Introduction

At Shaw Wood Academy we believe that smoking is harmful to health, and so we strongly discourage our children from smoking. Consequently, the school site is a non-smoking establishment.

Rationale

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. 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. 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, so that they grow up to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Aims and Objectives

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.

Organisation

We teach children about the dangers of smoking as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme, 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 might do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes. Staff lead all such discussions in a sensitive manner. They encourage the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking.

While we explain that it is illegal to sell cigarettes to people under sixteen years of age, our aim is to help the children make their own decision not to smoke simply because they believe it is the wrong lifestyle to choose.

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, e.g. when we teach them about how medicines can help the body. When such an issue arises, staff 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.

Parents may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school.

Staff and Visitors

We do not allow smoking on the school premises, as we do not want to present smoking as acceptable. Nor do we wish to present adult smokers as role models. Because of this if any member of staff or visitor wishes to smoke, they must leave the school site. Should we find any member of staff smoking at school, we would consider this a serious breach of the terms of employment.

Where smoking does take place outside, it must not be:

- **directly outside school buildings;**
- **not be in the view of pupils or parents;**
- **or be adjacent to doors or windows where second hand smoke could enter the building.**
- **where possible the location will be out of public view.**

Given the size and nature of the school site it will be difficult for smokers to be out of public view however it is imperative that smokers make every effort to ensure that parents and children cannot view them smoking.

E Cigarettes

E cigarettes are included with any other forms of smoking in this policy and are banned from the school site. This is for the reasons previously stated and also due to the fact that so called 'legal highs' can also be smoked in E cigarettes.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented.