



BISHOP RAWSTORNE
Church of England Academy

Smoke Free Policy

'But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere'
James 3:17

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This document and the content contained therein remains the responsibility of the Headteacher, and Governing Body of the Academy. No amendments can be made without their express instruction and they remain the final arbiters in any matters relating to it.

FORTITER ET FIDELITER
Bravely and Faithfully

Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Smoke Free Policy

Verse

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

James 3:17

Vision

“Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy aspires to cultivate wisdom rooted in Christian Values. It is our vision that all members of our community will experience life in all its fullness, flourishing through dignity, knowledge and understanding, bound together in unity, giving hope and worth to all.”

Our Values

Hope, Service, Compassion, Peace, Wisdom, Fellowship.

Our values are taken from the work of Neville Norcross ‘Christian Values for Church Schools’. Whilst there are many Christian values, we have chosen the six above to complement our commitment to a rich curriculum and outstanding pastoral care.

CODE OF CONDUCT IN OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Our aim is to ensure that you feel happy, safe and secure in your school.

We believe:

- that every individual in our community is a unique and valuable creation made in the image of God.
- we all have a right to be considered equal, worthy of respect and esteem.
- we all have a responsibility to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves.

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Statement of intent

Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy has a duty to protect its employees and students from known hazards. We understand that the health risks associated with smoking are serious and detrimental for those who smoke, as well as for people within close proximity.

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED ANYWHERE ON THE SCHOOL SITE, INDOORS OR OUTDOORS

Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy recognises the right of all staff and students to work in a smoke free environment and have operated a policy of no smoking/vaping within our buildings for many years. The school is committed to promoting health and welfare, and, as a good employer, wishes to create a high quality, healthy, and safe working environment for staff, students and visitors. It must, therefore, ensure that everyone is protected from the dangers of smoke in work and rest areas.

With effect from 1st July 2007 new legislation in relation to the Smoke Free Premises Act came into force and smoking became illegal in certain wholly or substantially enclosed public places. It became an offence to smoke in no smoking premises or to knowingly permit smoking in no smoking premises. Vehicles used for business purposes were also covered by the law. Owners of premises and individuals will have to pay substantial statutory fines if this legislation is breached. The school is responsible for monitoring adherence to this policy and has prime responsibility for ensuring compliance with the law.

The school has revised its policy to protect all members of the school community from the harmful effects of passive smoke and ensure that everyone is aware of their rights and responsibilities in relation to the legislation.

The policy applies to all teachers, support staff, students, visitors and contractors. Furthermore, all members of the school workforce share responsibility for the policy, and its policing is not the specific responsibility of any particular group.

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, visitors and contractors
- Everyone has a 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.

Through this policy, we aim to:

- Create a smoke-free environment for all those within the school community, including staff, students, visitors, parents, etc.
- Be sensitive to those who find it difficult not to smoke on the premises.
- Clarify the use of e-cigarettes and cigarettes on, and around, the school premises.

The principles outlined in this policy apply to all staff, students, visitors, contractors and parents.

The principles outlined in this policy also continue to apply whether or not 'no smoking' signs are displayed.

The principles outlined in this policy only apply to tobacco smoking and vaping, not cannabis smoking, which is covered in the school's Pupil Drug and Alcohol Policy and Staff Drug and Alcohol Policy. For the purposes of this document, the use of the word smoking and associated terms will include vaping and related associated terms.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991
- Health Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations 2015
- Public Health England (2016) 'Use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces'
- DfE (2023) 'Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Behaviour Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Suspension and Exclusion Policy
- Fire Safety Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The Headteacher will:

- Be responsible for the overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensure that all staff act in accordance with this policy.
- Implement and approve ways to teach students about the risks associated with smoking, including vaping.
- Be responsible for determining and implementing disciplinary measures for those who do not follow this policy.

The Governing Body will:

- Hold the Headteacher accountable for the implementation of this policy.
- Review any incidents associated with smoking.

The school nurse will:

- Support members of the school community who wish to quit smoking by offering advice.
- Have conversations with students who are caught smoking to ensure that they are aware of the risks.

Students and staff will:

- Act in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Engage in the school's anti-smoking curriculum, events and activities.
- Report incidents of smoking in and around the school premises to the Headteacher.

Teachers will educate students about the risks of smoking and why they should avoid it.

3. E-cigarettes on the premises

For the policy, the process of using an e-cigarette is defined as vaping.

Although e-cigarettes are not covered by the Health Act 2006, the school will adopt a fully smoke-free environment, and will recognise that the use of e-cigarettes, whilst safer for health than cigarettes, still pose some hazards, particularly for those with asthma and respiratory conditions who may be affected by the vapour.

The school will also recognise that e-cigarettes may create a nuisance for others in the production of vapour, particularly for non-users.

The school will not consider the use of e-cigarettes to be professional behaviour and, therefore, individuals are not permitted to use e-cigarettes in the presence of others, particularly students, whilst on the premises.

The school will not allow vaping breaks at any times during the school day. If an individual wishes to use their e-cigarette, they are only permitted to do so during arranged break times, e.g. lunch time, and in accordance with the principles outlined above. Only contractors, visitors and staff are permitted to leave the school premises during their break times to use e-cigarettes.

Staff, visitors and contractors are prohibited from purchasing e-cigarettes for students and any other individuals under the age of 18 at the school, e.g. visitors.

4. Smoking on the premises

Smoking is prohibited on the school premises at all times; there are no designated areas available on the school premises for smoking.

The school will not allow smoking breaks at any times during the school day. If an individual wishes to smoke, they will only be permitted to do so during arranged break times away from the school premises and out of sight of students. Only contractors, visitors and staff will be permitted to leave the school premises during their break times to smoke.

It is illegal for any individual under the age of 18 to smoke. Any student witnessed using cigarettes in and around the school premises, or whilst wearing school uniform, will face disciplinary action.

In accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, staff, visitors and contractors will be strictly prohibited from purchasing cigarettes for students and any other individuals under the age of 18.

Everyone will be informed of the fire risks associated with smoking and will be encouraged to read the school's Fire Safety Policy.

Staff members will be made aware of the dangers of passive smoking to those around them and will ensure that where they must smoke, this is done as far away from the school site as reasonably possible.

All areas of the school premises, including outdoor areas, are designated smoke-free environments and, as such, all individuals will be prohibited from smoking anywhere on the premises.

5. Smoking or vaping in vehicles

Smoking or vaping will not be permitted at any time in vehicles being used on behalf of the school, e.g. school minibuses, where car mileage allowance is being claimed, and at times when students are present in the vehicle.

Smoking or vaping will not be permitted in any personal vehicles on the school premises or when transporting students to a pre-arranged venue. Any individual witnessed smoking or vaping in personal vehicles, or in vehicles used on behalf of the school, will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the 'Disciplinary sanctions' section of this policy.

6. Disciplinary sanctions

If a member of staff breaches any of the guidelines in this policy, they will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Staff Code of Conduct.

Staff will also be subject to a penalty fine and possible criminal prosecution if their actions deem this necessary.

Visitors and contractors who breach the guidelines in this policy will be asked to leave the premises. Refusal to comply with this request will result in the school contacting the police if necessary.

Students will be classed as smoking or vaping if:

- They are seen smoking or vaping.
- They are seen with a cigarette or e-cigarette in their hand.
- They are found to have cigarettes or an e-cigarette in their possession.

Students caught smoking or vaping will receive a disciplinary sanction immediately in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy and this will be reported to the headteacher.

The Headteacher/SLT will notify the student's parents of the incident, and the disciplinary sanctions imposed on the student via a written letter.

The student will attend a meeting with the school nurse for health advice as soon as possible.

If students are continually caught smoking or vaping, their parents will be invited to a meeting with the Headteacher and school nurse, and if necessary, further disciplinary sanctions will be imposed on the student in accordance with the Behaviour Policy. This will usually be incremental.

Students may face suspension or exclusion if they are consistently in breach of this policy and the school's Suspension and Exclusion Policy, or if they are repeatedly putting others' safety at risk.

7. Support

The school will aim to implement effective, supportive procedures for members of the school community who want to quit smoking and improve the health of both smokers and non-smokers.

If an employee wishes to stop smoking, they will be able to request a meeting with the school nurse to discuss what help is available.

The school will regularly educate students about the effects of smoking, both through the requirements of the National Curriculum, and through additional sessions, e.g. PSHE lessons and assemblies.

Students will be encouraged to seek help from the school nurse if they:

- would like further information about the effects of smoking.
- would like to quit smoking.
- would like to know more about additional methods of support.

8. Monitoring and review

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff, and pupils if necessary.

All staff, visitors and contractors will be required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction periods, or upon their attendance at the school.