



Dear parent/guardian,

In 2021 our school will be adopting a new Smokefree School policy. This policy prohibits smoking throughout all our school grounds, outside and around the school gates, on our sports fields, car parks and footpaths at all times. This policy will apply to all school events and activities before and after school, and will also apply when students are taken off site for school trips/ external events.

The policy can be found on our website: <https://dowson.tameside.sch.uk/important-information/policies>

The policy provides a strong message to our students, parents and staff that is consistent and reflects our education programme. Smoking is the largest preventable cause of death in the UK and kills 460 people each year in Tameside.

There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke and second-hand smoke can have immediate health effects such as respiratory (breathing) problems, irritated eyes, headaches, coughs, sore throats and sickness, as well as long term health problems such as increased risk of lung cancer and heart disease. Children's exposure to people smoking around them 'normalises' the behaviour of smoking, which can increase the likelihood of them copying. We want to de-normalise smoking to prevent children from starting smoking.

Children who live with smokers are 3 to 4 times more likely to smoke than children who live with non-smokers. Every hour in Greater Manchester another child starts to smoke, that adds up to a classroom of new smokers every day. The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater their risk of developing life threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease if they continue smoking into adulthood.

Having a smoke free environment provides a positive message to all, which contributes to our commitment of ensuring the wellbeing of children and young people both during and after school.

We are committed to improving the health of all our staff and students, as well as that of other members of our community. We also recognise the important role that teachers, parents and other adults have in influencing the attitudes and smoking behaviour of children and young people.

Please give your support in maintaining Dowson Primary Academy as a Smokefree community and environment.

If you, a loved one, family, friend or colleague would like support to stop smoking, please Call Be Well Tameside on 0161 716 2000, or email bewelltameside@nhs.net for FREE support and advice to quit smoking.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs K Thornburn



DOWSON PRIMARY ACADEMY

Marlborough Road, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 5HU. Tel: 0161 366 0177. Fax: 0161 366 0546

Principal : Kathryn Thornburn (BSc Hons, NPQH)

Dowson Primary Academy 0161 366 0177

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