



## Smoke Free Policy

Created: January 2015

Review by: September 2020



### Statement of Intent

One of the County Council's corporate objectives is to make Lancashire a place where people can live healthy lives. To help to realise this objective, the County Council has approved the principle of being smoke-free in relation to the delivery of its services in order to reduce the harm to health caused by tobacco. The Governing Body of St Mary's Catholic High School shares the same belief and has decided to adopt the policy set out below:

The policy applies to all employees of the school and other workers including casual workers, agency workers and volunteers. The policy also applied to visitors and contractors.

The safety of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) has not been fully clinically tested<sup>1</sup> and therefore the World Health Organisation advises that their use should be prohibited anywhere that the use of conventional cigarettes is banned<sup>2</sup>. From 1 October 2015, the sale of e-cigarettes will also be banned to young people under the age of 18. It will also be an offence for anyone over 18 to buy e-cigarettes on behalf of a young person (known as 'proxy purchasing'), with a penalty fine of £90. In view of this, the policy applies to both tobacco cigarettes and e-cigarettes.

- Smoking is not allowed at any time when employees (or workers) are at work;
- Smoking is not permitted when driving whilst on duty or travelling to and from meetings for school business.
- Smoking is banned in the school's premises and grounds and in any school vehicles used for transporting pupils, employees, parents and visitors;
- Smoking is not allowed by employees or others on land owned or controlled by the County Council or the School e.g., car parks, playing fields, playgrounds. This applies whilst on duty and off duty (for example the policy applies to someone smoking in their car on a school or council controlled car park at breaks or lunchtimes);
- Smoking is not permitted near any windows or entrances to School or council buildings at any time;
- Smoking breaks are not permitted during working time;
- Visitors and Governors are reminded that the School in conjunction with the County Council is smoke-free and they are requested not to smoke near any access point, doorway or window fronting onto public roads or land.
- This Smoke-free Policy will be brought to the attention of partnership organisations, businesses providing services and other stakeholders who may interact with the School's employees and students and their co-operation in implementing both the spirit and letter of the policy will be requested and accepted as part of the partnership or working arrangements;
- Any special arrangements in place with regard to employees or private individuals living in School or council owned or controlled residential establishments must comply with the legislation and guidance from the appropriate regulatory bodies. These arrangements must be updated in accordance with any changes to legislation or guidance.
- All School and council owned or controlled buildings and vehicles must display the appropriate smoke-free signage;

- Enforcement of the School's policy is by management action and disciplinary procedures.

## Implementation

The Governing Body should ensure that appropriate arrangements exist for implementing the policy within their School and /or areas of responsibility.

## Information

Quitting cigarettes, shisha and e-cigarettes completely and being addiction-free is the best way to protect health. With support from a local stop smoking service, tobacco and nicotine users are **four times more likely** to quit than going it alone. They can help with one to one support and access to licensed medicines that can be used to help to beat the cravings. These are available to young people aged 12 years and above and are free to under 16s.

Free help and information is available on the NHS choices website and from local services and as follows:



For help to quit smoking, shisha and e-cigarettes contact your local service:

- North Lancashire - 01524 845145,
- Central, East and West Lancashire - 0800 328 6297
- The NHS Smokefree National Helpline: 0300 123 1044
- GP Surgeries
- The County Council's Schools Portal
- The Lancashire Healthy Schools Website – [www.lhsp.org.uk](http://www.lhsp.org.uk)

## **Breaches in the Policy**

**We will take action if an employee or worker smokes in contravention of this policy.** A record of any action will be recorded. Breaches of this policy by school staff may lead to disciplinary action being taken. Visitors smoking will be asked to leave the school grounds.

## **Monitoring of Policy**

The operation of the policy will be monitored and reviewed as required.

## **Review Period**

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis or in the event of any changes in legislation.

**Smoking is associated with around 50 diseases and smokers are more likely to be ill and require time off. As well as major illnesses such as cancer, bronchitis, emphysema, strokes and heart disease, smokers are more susceptible to coughs, colds and flu.**

**Non-smokers may also suffer increased illness from the effects of passive smoking.**