

E33 Smoke Free Policy

The Ryes Education consists of

The Ryes College URN 143911

and

Argyll House URN 146626

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1. Introduction

The Ryes College ethos sets out that we are: **Building a Caring Environment Together That Nurtures Individual Life Long Growth and Positive Experiences.** Smoking and vaping are likely to have an impact on emotional growth and are likely to have negative consequences, both emotionally, financially and physically in the long term.

1.1. At our school, we take seriously our duty to promote children and young people's wellbeing and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (Education and Inspection Act, 2006). We see our commitment to creating a smoke free environment and developing pupil's knowledge, attitudes and skills in decision making around smoking as part of our work on keeping children and young people safe around drugs and managing risk. Accordingly, this Policy compliments our school's Drug Policy

2. Rationale

All members of the school community have the right to work and learn in a smoke free environment. Exposure to second hand smoke (passive smoking) increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Exposure to role models who smoke also normalises smoking behaviour, which can have a significant negative impact on the delivery of the smoke free message.

Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death and illness in England, responsible for over 80,000 deaths per year. It kills half of all long term users. Two thirds of all new smokers in England are young people under the age of 18. Those who start smoking before the age of 16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke compared to those who begin later in life, and are more likely to be heavier smokers (Muller 2007). 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.

Electronic cigarettes (also known as e-cigs, vapes or vaporisers) are the subject of much public debate, concern and confusion, not just around their own health impact but also whether they draw young people into or away from smoking tobacco. More information on electronic cigarettes can be found in Appendix A.

When referring to a 'School's Smoke Free Policy' we are referring to prohibiting the use of both tobacco products and electronic cigarettes.

3. Definition

Smoking is the action of inhaling and exhaling the smoke of burning tobacco or herbal tobacco.

Vaping is the action of inhaling and exhaling the vapour produced by an electronic cigarette or a vaping device.

4. Aim

To ensure a whole-school approach to both smoking and vaping to protect all members of the school community from the harms of second-hand smoke and to prevent the uptake of, and reduce the prevalence of, smoking and vaping across the school community.

5. Objectives

To provide a smoke free school environment for the whole school community.

To ensure that tobacco education is part of the school's progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education / RSHE (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use).

To ensure that all staff promote positive attitudes and behaviour in relation to tobacco and electronic cigarettes.

To ensure that staff have the knowledge and understanding of policies, procedures and agreed practice to support the implementation of the Smoke Free Policy.

To involve all staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers and members of the wider school community including outside agencies as appropriate, in the development of policy and practice in relation to tobacco and vaping.

To adopt and support interventions that aim to prevent the uptake of smoking and vaping amongst pupils, staff, parents/carers and members of the wider school community

To involve the wider school community in interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking and vaping in children and young people, by providing stop smoking groups/support for parents and carers and through helping them to talk to their children about tobacco and other risk taking behaviours.

To provide assistance for pupils, staff and other members of the school community who smoke or vape and wish to stop.

To ensure that the School's Smoke Free Policy is applied when children / young people are taken off site.

6. Providing a smoke-free environment (Procedure)

This Policy applies to students, staff, parents/carers, members of the public, contractors or others working / using the School premises or vehicles and all vehicles used to transport students.

Smoking or vaping is not permitted in any part of the school's premises and grounds including the entrance area to the school, on land adjacent to the school building (e.g. car parks, garden areas, walkways, playgrounds, playing fields etc.) or on the school road crossing patrol areas. This Policy will apply equally to future premises at the construction stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.

There are no designated smoking or vaping areas provided within the School buildings or grounds.

The Smoke Free Policy applies to all events / activities held in the School including before and after school sessions, any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.

Suitable posters, displays and statutory no smoking signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke-free working environment.

Smoking or vaping is not permitted in any school owned/hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying students or staff on school business. **Please note: this is a statutory requirement.** Schools also have a duty to reinforce the smoking legislation on buses used for pupil transport.

This Policy applies when students are taken off site on school excursions/ visits/trips. Staff and accompanying helpers will be reminded that smoking is not permitted when on duty / looking after students.

7. Smoking prevention activities (Procedure)

Students are not permitted to smoke or vape when representing the School in any capacity. This includes all tobacco products and electronic cigarettes.

Employees are not permitted to smoke or vape in the view of pupils. Employees who do smoke or vape will be asked to ensure they cannot be seen smoking by students even when they are off the school grounds.

Tobacco education is part of the School's progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education / PSHE (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use) which may be delivered across the curriculum (science, citizenship, PSE, ASDAN, and Gateway).

A range of age appropriate methodologies will be used to deliver tobacco education with the aim of preventing the uptake of smoking including E.g. Unit awards, Taking part in Stoptober; drama strategies including theatre in education and where appropriate use of outside agencies.

The School supports tobacco education through the transition phase from primary to secondary school through engagement in currently offered programmes.

Parents/carers are encouraged and supported to be actively involved in their child's drug/tobacco education through home /school activities.

8. Staff Training and Development

Training on tobacco and e-cigarette use is available for all teaching staff as appropriate as well as pastoral staff and those involved in smoking prevention work including: the Head teacher, Directors and pastoral staff.

9. Non-compliance

The school's disciplinary procedure as stated below will apply for dealing with staff and students who do not comply with the Smoke Free School Policy. Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the policy

10. Pupils who smoke

We are aware that a number of the pupils who attend may smoke. During our referrals process our smoking policy is explained to pupils and parents. We seek to advocate healthy forms of living and to work with pupils who may have developed cravings or are addicted to smoking. We will work with those pupils to help them manage this. Our ethos is one of an individualised approach towards: Prevention, De-escalation and Reflection.

However, we do have procedures that we expect pupils to follow.

- 10.1 Pupils are requested leave all personal items at home. However, should they have cigarettes or vapes, we expect these items to be handed in at the school gate
- 10.2 If a student is found to be breaching the School's Smoke Free Policy appropriate action will be followed in accordance with our behaviour policy. We will in the first instance work through de-escalation of the event, moving the pupil away from others and then work through reflective conversations. This may include with the Senior Leadership Team. Usually this is sufficient to help resolve the situation and prevent it reoccurring.

If however, the situation continues i.e.

- 10.3 Pupils are continuing to smoke or use vapes in school buildings, they will be asked to leave the room and building immediately. It will be explained to the Student that smoking on the school site is breaking the Law and school rules and that they will lose rewards points.
- 10.4 Use of Vapes in the school buildings is against school rules as it places people at risk. This is because:
- Vapour can interfere with smoke detectors and cause others to believe that there is an immediate risk of fire.
 - Repeated false alarms causes a risk that people will assume that all alarms are false and not heed them.
 - This may result in people remaining in buildings when there is an actual fire, believing it to be a false alarm.
- 10.5 Additionally the student will be offered advice on how to stop smoking and if they agree be helped to take part in a cessation program. If they choose not to seek support, parents/carers will be kept informed of the support available.

11. Staff

- 11.1 If a member of staff is found to be breaching the School's Smoke Free Policy the Schools Disciplinary Procedure will be followed - initially, an informal discussion with the Head teacher and if the matter reoccurs, a warning letter that they are in breach of their contract of employment and informed of the implications that this may have.
- 11.2 Additionally the staff member will be offered support to help them quit smoking through linking them with appropriate support in the community.

12. Non staff members/school visitors

- 12.1 If a non-member of staff on the premises is found to be breaching the School's Smoke Free Policy Staff are authorised to ask non-employees to adhere to the Policy.

13. Assistance for those who smoke

- Local Authority Stop Smoking Services are available to staff, parents/carers and students who would like to stop smoking (*please note: this service should **not** be seen as a*

disciplinary action). Free group and one-to-one support may be available for staff and parents/carers through their local Stop Smoking Service

- Live well Suffolk (<http://livewellsuffolk.org.uk>) or One Life Suffolk (<http://onelifesuffolk.co.uk>) may be able to set up a group for parents/carers and/or staff in school upon request. Young people in the first instance, should access services through the school or their GP Practice, or by contacting the Specialist Stop Smoking Service.
- The School will promote these services regularly within the school and through parents' /carer's newsletters/ website etc.
- Pupils and Staff may contact 'Quitline', the free national telephone helpline for smokers – 0300 123 1044.
- Pupils and Staff may also contact various websites for information and help:

<https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

<http://www.givingupsmoking.co.uk>

<http://www.quitnet.org>

<https://www.blf.org.uk/>

14. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 14.1 The Policy should be widely publicised and advertised (staff induction, staff appointment contracts, handbook, website, notice boards, prospectus, promoted) so that everyone using the premises is aware of its content.

15. References

- 15.1 Muller T (2007) Breaking the cycle of children's exposure to tobacco smoke. London: British Medical Association