

2014

## Smoke Free Policy



**FUTURES**  
Community College

## Review Framework

The policy should be reviewed at the discretion of the Governing Body

	<b>Date</b>
This policy was originally created in:	2010
This issue was revised and released on: [Updated to include electronic cigarettes]	18 July 2014
School staff were consulted on the policy in:	2010
This policy was ratified by the Governing Body on:	21 August 2014
It will be reviewed in:	July 2018

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## Introduction

The aim of this policy is to create and maintain a smoke free College. There can be little doubt that attitudes towards smoking in public areas and at workplaces have changed dramatically over the past decade or so, following an increased concern about matters of health and safety generally and associated educational issues. More recently there have been specific concerns over the effects of "passive smoking" and a growing tendency among children and young people to smoke. Smoking is known to be a serious risk to health. It is a significant cause of disease and premature death. In addition there is now evidence that "passive smoking", the inhaling of other people's smoke, can cause lung cancer in non-smokers, as well as causing a deterioration of respiratory conditions.

## Aims and Objectives

This school regards itself as a health-promoting organisation. It recognises that its staff act as role models for pupils in all aspects of school life, including health promotion.

In light of the evidence that second hand smoke causes damage to health this Smoking Policy has been implemented to:

1. To provide a smoke free environment to protect the staff, children and young people, visitors and contractors from the effects of tobacco smoke and that of electronic cigarettes
2. To acknowledge the educational role of the organisation in discouraging children and young people from starting to smoke
3. To provide young people with a consistent message regarding tobacco and drug use
4. To provide young people with appropriate role models. It has been shown that the biggest factor affecting youth smoking is prevalence of adult smoking and young people's exposure to seeing smoking [ASH]
5. To raise awareness of the dangers of smoking through the Personal Social and Health Education Programme and help smokers quit
6. To be a health promoting organisation

## Rationale

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in the UK. That is why the Government White Paper "Choosing Health: Making healthier choices easier", promised new action to tackle tobacco and reduce the 106,000 deaths in the UK caused by smoking every year (86,500 in England).

Second hand smoke [breathing other people's tobacco smoke] causes at least 1,000 people to die every year. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, heart disease and cause the onset of asthma, chest and ear infections and cot death in children. It also leads to over 50 children being admitted to hospital per day. 80% of smokers take up the habit as teenagers, with more than 450 children starting smoking every day [ASH]

From 01 July 2007 all workplaces in England became smoke free [Health Act 2006 and the Smoke - free (premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006]. From that date it became a criminal offence to smoke in a smoke - free place.

The intention is not to confront smokers but to encourage and help those who wish to give up. The issue is not whether someone smokes but where and when he or she smokes.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act [1974] the College has a duty to provide a healthy working environment.

Everyone has a right to a smoke-free environment and to breathe clean air.

### **Restrictions on smoking within the workplace**

**Smoking will not be permitted in any part of the College's premises**, including offices, kitchens, within the entrance are to the College or on land adjacent to the College building [car park, garden areas, walkways etc.] where this forms part of the College premises. Smoking will also not be permitted just outside the College gates, e.g. at the Bus Stop. **The use of electronic cigarettes is not permitted.**

The enforcement of this total smoking ban will be the responsibility of all staff within the College. The College's disciplinary procedure will apply for dealing with employees who breach the smoking ban at work. Employees who raise genuine concerns about breaches of this policy will be protected from victimisation.

This policy applies to employees, parents, visitors, members of the public, contractors and others working in or using the College's premises and vehicles. This policy will be clearly advertised and visitors to the College will be informed of it.

Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to leave the premises.

The smoking policy will apply to all activities held in the College including before and after College sessions and any meetings/events organised which are attended by College employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.

Staff are not allowed to smoke nor use electronic cigarettes in the presence/sight of pupils or parents. This includes trips outside of school hours.

Non-compliance by students will be dealt with using sanctions outlined in the College's behaviour policy.

### **Designated smoking areas**

There will be **no designated smoking areas** provided within the College premises. This policy is in line with legislation.

### **Facilities for smokers**

**No facilities for smoking in the workplace will be provided** although support will be given to smokers to assist them to stop smoking.

## **Vehicles**

The smoking ban will apply to all College owned/hired/leased vehicles. No-one will be allowed to smoke inside any College owned/hired/leased vehicles. This ban includes electronic cigarettes.

## **Support for smoking cessation**

The College takes seriously its responsibilities in supporting staff and students to maintain their health and wellbeing.

The following are strategies which can be offered to support the cessation of smoking:

- The NHS offers a range of services to help smokers to give up. Individuals can visit the website – [www.nhs.uk/smokefree](http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree) for details.
- Students are able to access the School Nurse for help and advice
- Local pharmacies are supportive of people trying to give up smoking and most will provide a smoking cessation service free of charge to young people below the age of 16.

## **Education and Publicity**

Suitable posters and No Smoking signs will be displayed in College areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke free working environment.

The dangers of smoking for students will be addressed in the PSHE programme.

## **New buildings**

This policy will apply equally to all future premises at the design stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation.

## **Links**

This policy forms part of the College's Health and Safety Policy arrangements and was developed in line with recommended good practice from the Healthy Schools initiative.