



# Brickhouse Primary School

## Smokefree School Policy

Our School is proud to be a Smokefree School. This means we recognise that pupils, staff and visitors have the right to breathe smokefree air in, around and whilst entering/exiting the school. We are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all.

We acknowledge that exposure to second-hand smoke increases the risk of ear infections and other illnesses in children. It is well known that smoking is a habit of childhood and children are especially vulnerable to second-hand smoke; therefore, we are making every effort needed to prevent the initiation of smoking in children and young people.

This policy has been developed with staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers, the community and other outside agencies as appropriate, and is an acknowledgement that smokefree environments should be promoted and observed to protect everyone visiting the school.

### Aims

1. Protect the right of pupils, staff, parents and visitors to not be exposed to second-hand smoke.
2. To create a whole-school approach to smokefree to prevent the uptake of and reduce the prevalence of smoking across the school community.
3. Educate pupils on the dangers of smoking and the benefits of giving up smoking.
4. Provide encouragement and support to parents/carers who wish to give up smoking.
5. Be a healthy role model within the local community.

### Objectives

- We will provide a smokefree school environment.
- We will promote and shout about how proud we are to provide a smokefree environment. Adopting and supporting interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking amongst pupils, staff, parents/carers and members of the wider school community.
- We will ensure that education on smoking and tobacco is part of the school's curriculum of PSHE.
- We will promote local Stop Smoking information to young people and adults who need support to quit smoking.
- We will ensure staff support the implementation and maintenance of the smokefree school policy, and make sure any visitors follow the policy also.

## Rationale

All members of the school community have the right to work and learn in a smokefree environment. The rationale for becoming a smokefree school is as follows;

- Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death and illness in the UK, responsible for over 78,000 deaths per year.
- Two thirds of smokers start before the age of 18
- 40% of smokers start smoking regularly before the age of 16.
- 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, they are more likely to be heavier smokers.
- 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.
- Exposure to second hand smoke can increase the chance of serious illnesses; children are especially vulnerable to second-hand smoke.
- Exposure to role models who smoke can make smoking look like a normal adult behaviour to children. This is called normalising, which can have a significant negative impact on the smokefree message.
- A smokefree school provides positive health promotion for children and young people, contributing to the development of children and young people for life after school.

The rationale for **including e-cigarettes** in this smokefree policy is as follows;

- Although E-Cigarettes do not produce smoke, they can produce a vapour and prove annoyance or risks to those who do not smoke or use e-cigarettes.
- Some e-cigarettes look very similar to real cigarettes.
- Exposure to role models who use e-cigarettes normalises the behaviour, which can have a significant negative impact on the smokefree message.
- The school does not wish for children to get introduced to, or exposed to e-cigarettes by the school gates.

## Scope

This policy applies to staff, parents/carers, student placements, pupils, members of the public/visitors, contractors or others working/using the school premises or vehicles, and all vehicles used to transport students.

This policy covers any part of the school's premises and grounds including the entrance area to the school (the school gates), 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.

Any school owned/hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying students or staff on school business are covered by this policy.

The 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.

### Providing a smokefree environment (Procedure)

Staff, parents/carers and visitors who smoke will need to do so outside of the school premises, well away from the school gates/entrance/exits, and out of view of any children or pupils. This is inclusive of car parks. There are no designated smoking areas provided within the school buildings or grounds.

The organisation acknowledges that some staff, parents/carers and visitors may wish to make use of electronic cigarettes ("e-cigarettes"). E-cigarettes are battery-powered products that release a visible vapour containing liquid nicotine which is inhaled by the user. Although they fall outside the scope of smokefree legislation, the school requests that e-cigarettes are not used on school grounds, including the school gates.

Suitable posters, displays and signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smokefree environment. This policy will be displayed prominently for all to see. Any staff booking contractors, introducing or admitting visitors on site have a duty to signpost them to the policy.

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.

### Staff & visitors

Employees are not permitted to smoke in the view of pupils. Employees who do smoke will be asked to ensure they cannot be seen smoking by students (even if it is off the school grounds). Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the policy.

Disciplinary Procedures will be followed for members of staff who do not comply with the school's smokefree policy. The staff member will be offered support to help them quit smoking.

### Assistance for those who smoke

Anyone affected by this policy or would like some options if they wish to quit smoking can do so via smokefree: **[www.nhs.uk/smokefree](http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree)**

**Date:**           **March 2022**

**Review:**       **March 2025**