

ST MARY'S BENTWORTH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL SMOKING PROHIBITED ON SITE POLICY

Date of implementation: May 2025

Date of Review: **May 2027**



Ownership: Resources Committee	Linked to: All site matters - Health & Safety Policy; PSHE, Hall Hire Policy
Review Committee: Resources Committee, Head Teacher	
Communicated to: Staff, Parents, Hall Hirers, Visitors	
Evaluation: (inc links to evidence) Reviewed following HCC information about introduction of 'E-cigarettes' to consider/agree including such devices within the category of 'smoking'.	

Aims

St Mary's CE Primary School regards itself as a health-promoting organisation. It recognises that St Mary's 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 can cause damage to health this Smoking Prohibited Policy has been implemented to:

- protect the staff, children and young people, visitors and contractors from the effects of tobacco smoke;
- acknowledge the educational role of the organisation in discouraging children and young people from starting to smoke;
- to be a health promoting organisation
- raise awareness of the dangers of smoking through the Personal Social and Health Education Programme; and
- help smokers to quit

Purpose

The purpose of this Smoking Prohibited Policy is to provide a healthy and safe working environment for all employees, pupils, parents, contractors and other visitors.

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



Policy Statement

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.

Whole School Ban

The school does not allow any smoking within the boundaries of the school site at any time, by anyone – employees, parents or visitors, under any circumstances. The school does not have a designated smoking area.

Smoking constitutes a fire risk and is a proven hazard to the health of employees, both smokers and non-smokers, through passive smoking, and as such does not create a healthy environment for the children or staff of the school to work in.

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to enforce the policy at all times and to advise employees and ensure that visitors to the site comply with these arrangements.

Any contractor employed on site will be made aware of the ban before work is undertaken. It will be written into service specifications for contractors.

Smoking is not permitted by any group hiring the school premises for functions or regular lettings; this is written into the hire agreement.

There are notices reminding people that this is a smoke free site.

Electronic cigarettes ("e-cigarettes") are battery-powered products that release a visible vapour that contains liquid nicotine. Whilst E-cigarettes fall outside of the scope of smoke-free legislation, we are following the BMA's guidance and extending the existing smoke-free legislation to them, not least because some models can, particularly from a distance, look like real cigarettes, making a smoking ban difficult to police, and creating an impression for visitors, staff or other employees that it is acceptable to smoke. E-cigarettes will be treated in the same way as normal cigarettes and should not be 'smoked' anywhere on the School premises.

Support for employees

The Governing Body recognises that staff who smoke may need support either to give up smoking or help control their smoking.

The School will make available to employees the NHS smoking helpline number to get free advice and for information on the nearest Stop Smoking Service.

For staff finding it particularly difficult to adhere to this Smoking Prohibited Policy, the Head Teacher may deem it appropriate to seek assistance from an Occupational Health Advisor.

Employee co-operation

Staff are not allowed to smoke in the presence/sight of pupils or parents.



This would include trips outside of school hours.

Staff are not allowed to smoke on school premises.

Staff will be given 3 months notice of any changes to this Smoking Prohibited Policy.

All new and prospective employees are to be advised of the restrictions and rules regarding smoking at work, at the interview process and induction.

Information will be included in school information as appropriate and school website.

This Smoking Prohibited Policy is incorporated into the standard terms and conditions of employment for all employees.

It is anticipated that all employees will comply with the Smoking Prohibited Policy. In circumstances where there is wilful contravention of the Smoking Prohibited Policy, steps may be taken to invoke disciplinary procedures.

Outside agencies using the school premises

The school Smoking Prohibited Policy applies to all social events

When events are booked, individuals are to be made aware of the Smoking Prohibited Policy.

Parents

Parents are to be informed of the Smoking Prohibited Policy, and any changes thereto, through newsletters and other forms of communication.

Signage

Clearly worded signs will be sited at the gates, entrance(s) and in prominent positions throughout the school premises.