



SMOKE FREE POLICY

(December 2016)

To live and learn in harmony,
Caring for each other;
Treating everybody as a sister and a brother;
Reflecting Christ's actions and His message too,
By striving for excellence in all that we do.

Smoke Free School Policy

This policy is denoted as good practice.

Responsibilities:

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

Second hand smoking – breathing in other people's smoke – has now been shown to cause lung cancer and heart disease in non-smokers, as well as many other illnesses and minor conditions. The Ursuline prep acknowledges that breathing in other people's tobacco smoke is both a public health hazard and a welfare issue. It is also noted that electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) mimic the effects of real cigarettes. Experts say it is not yet known what harm the tobacco-free devices could inflict and that their contents could be damaging young people's health.

Rationale:

- Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill-health in our society.
- Passive smoking – breathing other people's tobacco smoke – is also potentially fatal. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, as well as many other illnesses, in non-smokers.
- Smoking is a health and safety issue for all adults who use the school: staff and parents.
- Everyone has a right to breathe clean air, and non-smokers are in the majority.
- Schools have a major role to play in working towards non-smoking being seen as the norm in society.
- Children need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models within the school.

Objectives:

- To protect non-smokers from the adverse health effects of environmental tobacco smoke and e-cigarette vapors in the workplace.
- To demonstrate the school's commitment to promoting the health of pupils and staff.
- To provide information and advice for those who wish to stop smoking.

Restrictions on smoking:

All staff – teaching, support and peripatetic, may not smoke tobacco or e-cigarettes while on school premises and grounds.

Pupils:

Pupils may not smoke tobacco or e-cigarettes while on school premises and grounds or while engaged in school related activities outside the school.

Parents:

Parents may not smoke tobacco or e-cigarettes while on school premises and grounds. Parents will be informed of this restriction during the pupil induction process, in intermittent reminders on the newsletter and by being signposted to this policy on the school website.

Visitors

The smoking policy applies to all visitors to the school, for example parents, suppliers, supply or temporary staff, contractors, sports coaches etc. The following arrangements have been made for informing visitors of the policy's existence:

- Clearly worded signs will be sited to announce the policy.
- Staff members will inform visitors of the policy when necessary.

School related activities:

The prohibition of smoking tobacco or e-cigarettes will apply during related school activities undertaken outside school premises, eg educational visits. School premises utilised outside normal working hours. When school premises are used for purposes other than school related activities the school smoking policy will still remain in operation.

Procedures:

If staff are found smoking tobacco or e-cigarettes on school premises, grounds or school related activities this will be deemed to be committing an act of gross misconduct and will be subject to disciplinary action. If parents or visitors are found smoking tobacco or e-cigarettes on school premises or grounds, they will be required to leave the premises or grounds immediately and may not be permitted to return. Parents assisting on school activities and educational visits are subject to the same no smoking policy as staff.

Systems of support:

Staff, parents and visitors wishing to stop smoking tobacco or e-cigarettes can seek support and advice from:

- NHS Stop Smoking Services (<http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>)
GP Surgeries Implementing and monitoring Members of staff will be given an e-copy of this policy, which will become part of their contract of employment.

Parents will be informed of the policy. Members of staff will inform school visitors of the policy. Signs and notices will be posted in prominent positions throughout the school premises.

Policy written by: M Smith
Policy adopted: December 2016
Policy updated: December 2018
Policy to be reviewed: as required