



Pencoys Primary School

Policy on Smoking

Review: February 2020

(see also Drugs Policy)

Introduction

At Pencoys primary School, we believe that smoking is harmful to health, so we strongly discourage our children from smoking. Consequently, the school is a non-smoking establishment.

Rationale

Research shows that two thirds of smokers start before age 18. Of those who try smoking between one-third and one-half will become regular smokers. Smoking is regarded by the medical profession as the major cause of many illnesses. It is estimated that approximately 100,000 smokers a year die in the UK because of their smoking habit. Children can be harmed by passive smoking, i.e. by inhaling smoke from other people's cigarettes.

Aims and objectives

We aim to:

- help children know and understand the dangers of smoking, and the harmful effects that smoking can have on their bodies;
- provide children with the knowledge and information necessary for them to make responsible choices in relation to smoking;
- equip children with the social skills that enable them to resist the pressure to smoke, either from their peer group, or from society in general.

Organisation

The dangers of smoking are addressed in KS2, in our programme of personal, social and health education (PSHE), with advice and support from the Health Authority. As well as teaching the children about the effects that smoking has on the body, we engage them in discussions about the reasons why people start to smoke, and what they themselves should do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes. Teachers lead all such discussions in a sensitive manner. They encourage the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking. We explain that it is illegal for cigarettes to be sold to people under 18 years of age, but our aim is for children to refrain from smoking not only for that reason, but also because they believe that smoking is a wrong lifestyle choice.

The dangers of smoking sometimes arise as an issue in science lessons at Key Stage 2, when children learn about the way substances affect the body. When such an issue arises, class teachers deal with it in context, and answer the children's questions to the best of their ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided.

Parents and carers may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school.

School staff

We do not allow smoking on any part of the school site, including the staffroom. If any members of staff do wish to smoke, they must leave the school site. Should any member of staff be found smoking on the school premises in contravention of this policy, we would consider this a serious breach of the terms of employment.

E-cigarettes and vaping

At Pencoys we adopt the same procedures and rationale towards e-cigarettes. Therefore vaping is not allowed on the schools site and this includes school staff, visitors and Parents

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the Headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. Every two years, or earlier if necessary, the governors review this policy as part of their provision committee's monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's PSHE programme.

Signed:

Date:

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