

NO SMOKING POLICY

Date this policy was formally reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body of Kelvin Grove Primary School:	20.05.2016
Signed on behalf of the Governing Body by:	Mr Ian Mearns MP Chair of Governors
Signature:	
Date:	20.05.2016
Details and dates of minor amendments:	6.4.16 policy reviewed and updated. 05.07.2019 reviewed without amends.
Date next full review is due:	Autumn 2019

Please note that this school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, governors, parents and visitors to share this commitment.



1 Introduction

1.1 At Kelvin Grove School we believe that smoking is harmful to health. Smoking and vaping are not permitted on or around the school grounds in order to promote a healthy working and learning environment for all children and adults.

2 Rationale

2.1 Childhood smoking has health consequences both at the time and in older age. People who start to smoke at a younger age face additional risks of lung damage, bowel cancer, and cervical pre-cancerous lesions. Smoking prevalence is higher in children whose parents, siblings and/or peers smoke. These children may also be exposed to second-hand smoke. Almost all adult smokers took up the habit when they were children. Two-thirds of smokers start before age 18. Of those who try smoking between one-third and one-half will become regular smokers. Children can be harmed by passive smoking, i.e. by inhaling smoke from other people's cigarettes. It is known that smoking is harmful to the unborn babies of mothers who smoke. For all these reasons, our school does all it can to discourage children from smoking, and to educate them, so that they grow up to lead a healthy lifestyle.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 We aim to:

- help children know and understand the dangers of smoking and vaping, and the harmful effects that smoking and vaping can have on their bodies;
- provide children with the knowledge and information necessary for them to make responsible choices in relation to smoking and vaping;
- 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.
- promote a healthy, smoke-free environment in school.

4 Organisation

4.1 We teach children about the dangers of smoking and vaping as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme in Year 6, with advice and support from the Health Authority. As well as teaching the children about the effects that smoking and vaping has on the body, we engage them in discussions about the reasons why people start to smoke, and what they themselves might do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes. The children's class teacher leads all such discussions in a sensitive manner. He or she encourages the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking. While we explain that it is illegal to sell cigarettes to people under sixteen years of age, our aim is to help the children make their own decision not to smoke and vape simply because they believe it is the wrong lifestyle to choose.



4.2 The dangers of smoking and vaping sometimes arise as an issue in science lessons, when children learn about the way substances affect the body, e.g. when we teach them about how medicines can help the body. When such an issue arises, the class teacher deals with it in context, and answers the children's questions to the best of their ability, taking care to explain that smoking and vaping are dangerous, and should be avoided.

Parents may view any of the smoking and vaping-related teaching materials that we use in our school. Whenever possible, we use the expertise of external professionals to support parents and to help them to educate their children.

If children are found to be smoking and vaping in school, or cigarettes or e-cigarettes are found in their possession, they are confiscated from the child and the parents informed immediately. An initial offence would be treated as an opportunity for education, however subsequent offences may incur a fixed term exclusion.

5 Staff

5.1 Gateshead Authority has a no-smoking policy for all its premises, therefore smoking and vaping is not allowed on the premises. In addition to this reason we do not allow smoking and vaping on the school premises or outside the school gates because we do not want to present smoking as acceptable, nor do we wish to present adult smokers as role models. Staff, and any other adults (including children's parents) accompanying children on educational visits are also not permitted to smoke and vape to ensure that they are also not presented as acceptable outside school premises. If any member of staff wishes to smoke or vape, they must leave the school site. A breach of this policy will be seen as a variance from acceptable standards of behaviour and will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

6. Lettings

6.1 When the school is hired out for a private or a fundraising function it is on the strict understanding that smoking and vaping are not allowed on the school premises.

7. Implementation

Every member of teaching and non-teaching staff will be provided with a copy of this policy. Pupils will be made aware that smoking and vaping are not permitted on school premises and that it is a danger to health through specific PSHE lessons, health-related science lessons and others areas of the curriculum where such discussion is relevant. Staff will also react in accordance with the school policy when engaged in discussions about smoking with individual children.

8. Advice on stopping smoking

8.1 Support on how to stop smoking and vaping is available throughout the area for those wishing to quit, but the best way to quit is not to start in the first place.



9. Monitoring and review

9.1 It is the role of the head teacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. The governors review this policy as part of their curriculum committee's monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's PSHE programme.