



University Technical College Warrington (UTCW)

Smokefree Schools Policy

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This policy provides guidance for members and stakeholders of the UTC Warrington community on why we are a Smokefree School. It has been developed with the need to balance the interests of the whole school, the need to protect children and enable all to work and learn in a smoke-free environment

1.2. All children and young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about smoking. Schools play a pivotal role in helping students make such decisions by providing education about the risks and effects of tobacco.

2. AIMS

2.1 To reinforce that our school is a 'Smoke-Free' school and complies with the Smokefree legislation.

2.2 This policy has been developed to protect all employees, students and visitors from exposure to second hand smoke and to assist compliance with the Health Act 2006.

2.3 Exposure to second hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other serious illnesses.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the policy are:

3.1 To provide a smokefree school environment for everyone.

3.2 To provide children and young people with a consistent message regarding tobacco and its impact on health.

3.3 To provide assistance for those who smoke.

3.4 Reduce smoking prevalence in Warrington.

4. Rationale

Smoke Free Environments

The Department of Health's Tobacco Control Plan for England "Towards a smoke-free generation" launched in January 2017, outlines plans to reduce smoking in England, with the aim of creating a smoke-free generation. One of the objectives of the tobacco control plan is to reduce the number of 15 year olds who regularly smoke from 8% to 3% or less by the end of 2022. The Department of Health recognises the importance of prevention; with the need to discourage young people from smoking.

Smoking remains an addiction which is largely taken up in childhood, with the majority of smokers starting as teenagers. Smoking prevalence in 15 year olds continues to decline, however, 32% of smokers (current and ex-smokers) aged 16-24 started when they are 16 or 17. 77% of smokers aged 16 to 24 in 2014 began smoking before the age of 18. As a result many young people become addicted before they fully understand the health risks associated with smoking (Tobacco Plan 2017).

Children are heavily influenced by adult role models who smoke: in 2014, 82% of pupils who regularly smoked reported having a family member who smoked. Continuing to encourage adult smokers to quit must therefore remain an important part of reducing prevalence amongst the young, and achieving a smokefree generation (Tobacco Plan 2017).

Research shows that in 2014, 46% of pupils aged 11 to 15 who were current (regular and occasional) smokers usually bought their cigarettes in shops, despite the law which prohibits the sale of cigarettes to those under the age of 18 (Tobacco Plan 2017).

- Everyone has the right to a smoke-free environment.
- Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in the UK
- Nationally, children's exposure to second hand smoke – children 'breathing other peoples' tobacco smoke' causes over 300,000 extra GP appointments due to asthma, respiratory conditions, bacterial meningitis and over 9,500 child hood hospital admissions each year
- Exposure to second hand smoke has been shown to cause lung cancer, heart disease and cause the onset of asthma, chest and ear infections and cot death in children.
- This increased illness leads to nursery and school absenteeism affecting education achievement, compounding poverty & continuance of the cycle of deprivation.

Smoking in Young People

- 80% of smokers take up the habit as teenager
- Approximately 330,000 children under the age of 16 years trying cigarettes for the first time each year. Two-thirds of smokers start before age 18. Of those who try smoking between one-third and one-half will become regular smokers.
- It is illegal to sell tobacco or e-cigarettes to any person under the age of 18 (ASH March 2017).
- Half of these children will die unnecessarily if they continue to smoke.

E-cigarettes

E-cigarette use is not recommended for young people. In the UK protection is in place via prohibitions on the sale of e-cigarettes to under-18s and purchase by adults on behalf of under-18s, and restrictions on advertising. However, because adult smokers use e-cigarettes to quit smoking and stay smokefree, the products can help reduce children's and young people's exposure to second-hand smoke and smoking role models.

UK data shows little evidence that young people who try e-cigarettes progress to regular use, other than those who had previously smoked. Schools have a particular responsibility in managing the risk of youth uptake of e-cigarettes and might want to treat e-cigarettes as they would any other age-restricted product.

Taken from "Use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces. Advice to inform evidence-based policy making" PHE 2016.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/534586/PHE-advice-on-use-of-e-cigarettes-in-public-places-and-workplaces.PDF

Smoke Free School Policy

The no-smoking policy forms part of the school's Health and Safety Policy arrangements. The Health Act 2006 places restrictions on smoking within the workplace. For further details of the law as it applies to England, please refer to www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

Comprehensive Smokefree Policies in schools provide a positive role model for children and contribute to the development of a health-promoting school. This policy will help to reinforce rather than contradict the school's PSHE education programme.

The Smokefree Policy will include the use of e-cigarettes and other vaping devices, as a smoking behaviour.

5. Smoke free Schools Premises

In 2007 Smokefree laws were introduced to protect people from the harms of second-hand smoke in public places, public transport and work vehicles. These laws have proven to be highly effective resulting in an immediate reduction in the number of children being admitted to hospital for asthma. Compliance is also virtually universal. To further protect children, the government extended legislation to cover private vehicles carrying children from October 2015 (Tobacco Plan 2017).

Smoking is NOT be permitted in any part of the school's premises, including kitchens, within the entrance area to the school or on land adjacent to the school building (car park, walkway, Outside Space etc) where this forms part of the school premises. This policy will apply equally to future premises at the design stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.

There will be NO designated smoking areas provided within the school premises.

This policy applies to employees, parents and visitors, members of the public, contractors and others working or using the school's premises or vehicles. This policy will be clearly advertised and visitors to the school will be informed of it.

The school's disciplinary procedure will apply for dealing with staff and pupils who do not comply with the Smokefree Status at school.

Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the smokefree status.

The Smokefree Policy will apply to all activities held in the school including before and after school sessions and any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.

6. School Vehicles

All school owned/hired/leased vehicles will be Smoke free and will display mandatory 'no-smoking' signage. Staff are not allowed to smoke in their own vehicles, when carrying passengers on school business or on the school premises.

7. Assistance for those who do smoke

We recognise the importance of being smokefree and therefore adhere to the principle that second hand smoke is damaging to health. In addition, we also stand by the notion that

smoking is an addictive behaviour. We pledge that we are willing to be very supportive to anyone who wishes to give up smoking by offering stop-smoking information to anyone who is interested

Staff should be aware of local stop smoking service support for staff, families and young people within Warrington

Livewire SmokeFree can support anyone who lives or works in Warrington. LiveWire can provide friendly and helpful Stop Smoking support and advice.

Livewire has a trained advisor on hand waiting to chat to pupils (secondary school only), staff or parents/carers to answer any questions they may have. This can be accessed via telephone on 0300 003 0818 or on the Facebook page @smokefreewarrington where you can chat directly to an advisor using the chat facility. If you have a student who wishes to access support please complete a referral form and a Livewire advisor will contact the young person/adult as soon as they are available and discuss with the pupil where they would like to be seen.

Our school also has a School Health Drop In every week. The service can support students who would like support to reduce numbers of cigarettes smoked or to quit. The school Nurse drop in is advertised throughout signage in the building. The current drop in is provided on Thursday Lunchtime. To contact the school nurse, please email alwch.0to19@nhs.net

8. Education and Guidance

Schools have a legal responsibility to ensure that the required no smoking signs are in place for premises and vehicles. Suitable posters and No Smoking signs will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke-free working environment.

Tobacco education will form part of the RSHE (Relationships, Sex & Health Education) curriculum which will be statutory from September 2021. It is important that the starting point for health and wellbeing education should be a focus on enabling pupils to make well-informed, positive choices for themselves. RSHE teaches the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing, which includes education around drugs, alcohol and tobacco. This covers:

- The facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks, including the link between drug use, and the associated risks, including the link to serious mental health conditions.
- The law relating to the supply and possession of illegal substances.
- The physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood.
- The physical and psychological consequences of addiction, including alcohol dependency.
- Awareness of the dangers of drugs which are prescribed but still present serious health risks.
- The facts about the harms from smoking tobacco (particularly the link to lung cancer), the benefits of quitting and how to access support to do so.

Teaching resources can be sourced via the 'Health Promotion Resource centre' (WBC Public Health) catalogue: <http://publichealthresources.warrington.gov.uk/HPAC>

9. Appointments

This school is a Smokefree school and this should be made clear within all its appointments procedures, staff handbooks and school prospectus.

10. Working with Parents and Governors

The school recognises the importance of consulting with parents and governors to develop/ review the Smokefree Policy.

It will communicate the benefits for pupils and staff of having a smoke-free school environment.

Parents and governors will be asked to support this message and adhere to the smoking policy on school premises at all times.

In addition parents and governors can access stop smoking support through Livewire (signposted in the policy section 7.0)

11. Working with Pupils

Students know the school is smoke-free environment and understand the consequences if they are caught smoking.

Tobacco dependence is one of the hardest addictions to break. A smoker will typically have many failed quit attempts before they manage to successfully quit smoking.

Providing support to help smokers quit is highly cost-effective and local stop smoking services continue to offer smokers the best chance of quitting. Smokers who use them are up to four times as likely to quit successfully as those who choose to quit without help or with over the counter nicotine replacement therapy products (Tobacco Plan 2017)

12. Monitoring

The policy will be monitored by management to ensure that it is running effectively. Any problems or queries relating to the policy can be put to management through a staff representative.

Cigarette Litter

The school caretaker/staff will be encouraged to monitor & record evidence of cigarette litter for example; where on school site, frequency and quantity.

Illicit Tobacco

Illicit tobacco includes counterfeit tobacco i.e. fake brands and products that are illegally imported evading the payment of UK duty. Any cigarette packages that are found in school, which are not in plain packaging will be reported to Warrington Trading Standards regarding concerns of illicit tobacco use in school. The school will also report if known, where the young person has got the illicit tobacco from.

https://www.warrington.gov.uk/info/201127/trading_standards

Discipline Procedures

The school should highlight discipline procedures for both staff/visitors and young people caught smoking on the school site.

Examples;

Discussion with pupil

Letter home to inform parent/carer

Detention

Exclusion

13. Health and Well Being

The Smoke-Free Schools Policy is part of the wider Warrington Borough Council and Public Health approach towards stopping smoking and positive health and well-being.

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