

Toll Bar Primary School

Non-smoking Policy

1 Rationale

- 1.1 At Toll Bar Primary School we believe that smoking is harmful to health and so we strongly discourage our children from smoking. Smoking is a health and safety issue for all adults who use our school, staff and parents, consequently, the school is a non-smoking establishment.
- 1.2 Research shows that almost a quarter of all young people are regular smokers by the age of 15. Almost all adult smokers took up the habit when they were children.
- 1.3 Smoking is regarded by the medical profession as the major cause of many illnesses. It is a preventable cause of premature death and ill health in our society.
- 1.4 Everyone has a right to breathe clean air and passive smoking can also be potentially fatal. 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.
- 1.5 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.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 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.

3 Organisation

- 3.1 We teach children about the dangers of smoking as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme in Year 6, with advice and support from the Health Authority being available.
- 3.2 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 might do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes. The children's class teacher leads all such discussions in a sensitive manner. She encourages the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking.

Non-smoking Policy

- 3.3** 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 simply because they believe it is the wrong lifestyle to choose.
- 3.4** 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, 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 her ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided.
- 3.5** Parents may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school.

4 Staff and adult visitors

- 4.1** We do not allow smoking on the school premises, as we do not want to present smoking as acceptable. Nor do we wish to present adult smokers as role models. Because of this, we do not allow smoking even in the staff-room, and if any member of staff wishes to smoke, s/he must leave the school site. Should we find any member of staff smoking at school, we would consider this a serious breach of the terms of employment.
- 4.2** This non-smoking policy applies to all visitors to the school e.g. parents, suppliers, workmen, supply and temporary staff. The following arrangements have been made for informing visitors of the policy's existence:
- Clearly worded signs announcing the policy
 - Staff members will inform visitors of the policy when necessary
- 4.3** Parents assisting on school visits will be asked to smoke well away from the children if necessary.

5 Help for those who smoke

- 5.1** Smokers will have to make the biggest adjustment to this policy. If anyone requires help from the Occupational Health department please contact the Headteacher
- 5.2** Parents will be contacted if pupils are found smoking on the school premises and help will be sought from the school medical services if necessary.

6 Monitoring and review

- 6.1** It is the role of the headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented.
- 6.2** The governors will review this policy as part of their curriculum committee's monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's PSHE programme.

Originally written April 2004

Non-smoking Policy