

# MAKING OUR SCHOOL SMOKEFREE

Agreed by LA Board March 2021

Walbottle Village Primary School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment.

We recognise that pupils, staff and visitors have the right to breathe smoke free air in and around the school. We acknowledge that exposure to second-hand smoke, also known as passive smoking, increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. We know that smoking is a habit of childhood and that is why we are committed to creating a smoke free environment and developing pupil's knowledge, attitudes and skills in positive decision making around smoking.

## AIMS

-  Protect the right of pupils, staff, parents and visitors to not be exposed to second-hand smoke
-  Improve the health of pupils, teachers and support staff
-  Educate young people on the dangers of smoking
-  Provide encouragement and support to smokers who wish to give up smoking
-  Reduce smoking litter around the school
-  Be a healthy role model within the local community

All members of the school community have the right to work and learn in a smoke free environment. This is due to -

- Exposure to second-hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.
- Exposure to role models who smoke normalises smoking behaviour, can have a significant negative impact on the smokefree message.

- Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death and illness and is responsible for over 5,650 deaths per year.
- Two thirds of smokers start before the age of 18,
- 40% start smoking regularly before the age of 16.
- Those who start smoking before the age of 16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke compared to those who begin later in life, they are more likely to be heavier smokers.
- The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater their risk of developing life-threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease if they continue smoking into adulthood.

**A smoke free school provides positive health promotion for children and young people, contributing to the development of children and young people for life after school.**

Procedure -

This policy applies to students, staff, parents/carers, members of the public, contractors or others working / using the school premises. Smoking is not permitted in any part of the school's premises and grounds including the area outside of the school gate, surrounding fencing and outside of the class room windows on either side of the school gate. This policy will apply equally to future premises at the construction stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.

Staff and visitors who smoke will need to do so outside of the above school premises. There are no designated smoking areas provided within the school buildings or grounds.

The policy applies to all events / activities held in the school.

Suitable posters, displays and signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke free environment.

This policy applies when students are taken off site on school excursions/visits /trips. Staff and accompanying helpers will be reminded that smoking is not permitted when on duty/looking after students. Please note: This includes E-Cigarettes / Electronic Vaporisers.

For those who smoke, information about NHS Stop Smoking Services and Local Support are available.

