



# All Saints Carshalton, Church of England Primary School

## Policy for Non-Smoking (see also Drugs Policy)

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## **Introduction**

In view of the serious health risks associated with smoking and with passive smoking, and following the unanimous advice of the Department of Health and of the medical Royal Colleges, the Governing Body prohibits smoking within the school boundaries, whether indoors or outdoors, and within all vehicles used for official school purposes. This applies to all members of the school, staff, contractors, parents, visitors, members of the public or any other person whatsoever.

## **Rationale**

Almost all adult smokers took up the habit when they were children. It has been estimated that 450 children a day take up the habit, and that they can quickly become addicted, sometimes within days, from just one or two cigarettes. It is therefore the school's policy to do all it can to discourage children from smoking, and to educate them in such a way that they adopt a healthy lifestyle. We do not wish to present adult smokers as role models.

## **Objectives**

The school's policy is to

- help children know and understand the dangers of smoking cigarettes, e-cigarettes or vaping 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 conventional cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vaping (all contain nicotine);
- equip children with the social skills that enable them to resist the pressure to smoke or vape, either from their peer group, or from society in general.

## **Organisation**

- The dangers of smoking or vaping will be addressed in Year 6, as part of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme, which is supplemented with advice and support from the local Health Authority;
- As well as being taught about the effects that smoking or vaping has on the body, the children will be engaged in discussions about the reasons why people start to smoke or vape, and what they themselves should do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes;
- All such discussions will be led in a sensitive manner;
- The children will be encouraged to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal opinions with regard to smoking or vaping;
- Although it will be explained that it is illegal for cigarettes to be sold to people under sixteen years of age, the principal aim is for children to refrain from smoking or vaping not only for that reason, but also because they believe that smoking or vaping is a wrong lifestyle choice;
- The dangers of smoking or vaping may 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 will deal with it in context, and answer the children's questions to the best of their ability, taking care to explain that smoking or vaping is dangerous, and should be avoided.