

WHITEFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy on Smoking

(see also Drugs)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At Whitefield Community Primary School, we believe that smoking is harmful to health, so we strongly discourage our children from smoking. Consequently, the school is a non-smoking establishment.

2 Rationale

- 2.1 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. About 450 children a day take up the habit, and they can become addicted within days, from just one or two cigarettes. Smoking is regarded by the medical profession as the major cause of many illnesses. It is estimated that approximately 120,000 smokers a year die in the UK because of their smoking habit. Children can be harmed by passive smoking, i.e. by inhaling smoke from other people's cigarettes. Seventy per cent of children are exposed to other people's smoke when they go out, and 34 per cent are exposed to smoke in their own homes. 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 in such a way that they adopt a healthy lifestyle.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1 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.

4 Organisation

- 4.1 The dangers of smoking are addressed in Year 6, in our programme of personal, social and health education (PSHCE), with advice and support from the Health Authority. 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 should do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes. The children's class teacher leads all such discussions in a sensitive manner. S/he encourages the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking. We explain that it is illegal for cigarettes to be sold to people under 16 years of age, but our aim is for children to refrain from smoking not only for that reason, but also because they believe that smoking is a wrong lifestyle choice.
- 4.2 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. When such an issue arises, class teachers deal with it in context, and answer the children's questions to the best of their ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided.
- 4.3 Parents may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school. We make these materials readily available at our annual presentation to parents of Year 6 children about the PSHCE curriculum.

- 4.4 Signs are displayed prominently to ensure people are aware that Whitefield Community Primary School is a non-smoking establishment.

5 School staff

- 5.1 We do not allow smoking on any part of the school site, including the staffroom, because we do not want smoking to appear acceptable, or adult smokers to appear as role models. If any members of staff do wish to smoke, they must leave the school site. Should any member of staff be found smoking on the school premises in contravention of this policy, we would consider this a serious breach of the terms of employment.

6 Monitoring and review

- 6.1 It is the role of the headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. Every two years, or earlier if necessary, the governors review this policy as part of their curriculum committee's monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's PSHE programme.

Signed:

Date: 14 November 2006

Reviewed: November 2006

Reviewed: April 2011