

FINAL DRAFT

QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL

NO SMOKING POLICY

Introduction

Queen Elizabeth High School recognises that smoking has an adverse effect on the health of staff and students and realises the benefits of enforcing a no-smoking policy. In line with Northumberland County Council recommendations this policy applies to **everyone** who is on site at Queen Elizabeth High School.

It is a recognised fact that a no-smoking policy is of benefit to the health of staff and students alike. The school actively promotes health-related policies and includes health-related education as part of our guidance programme/ science curriculum. Queen Elizabeth High School has been a no-smoking school for 4 years and new staff and visitors are made aware of the policy through clearly displayed signs and through the staff handbook. The site manager or his team/ support staff make contractors arriving on site aware of the policy.

Rationale

The policy is made available to all members of staff and visitors to raise awareness of the no-smoking environment (in staff handbook/ in offices). Queen Elizabeth High School recognises the health benefits to all young people and adults alike and it is acknowledged that it must be made clear to everyone that smoking is prohibited inside the school buildings and on the school site.

Queen Elizabeth High School actively promotes young people's self esteem through its curriculum, including the guidance programme. Our aim is to raise young people's self esteem so that they are equipped with the necessary skills to make informed choices. Queen Elizabeth High School recognises the role that it has to play in being a health-promoting establishment and it is important to provide health education so that students can discuss with peers and adults various choices and their consequences. This in turn will lead them on to make informed choices about their actions and to have the knowledge to recognise the consequences of such actions.

Data Supporting Rationale

The government has set a target in the SMOKING KILLS White Paper to reduce the prevalence of smoking among young people aged 11-15 from a baseline of 13% in 1996 to 11% by 2005 and 9% or less by 2010.

Research shows that, overall, girls are more likely to be smokers than boys – in 2004 10% of girls were regular smokers, compared to 7% of boys, and that there is also a sharp increase in the prevalence of smoking with age (the proportion that had ever smoked: 14% of 11 year olds, 62% of 14 year olds) and just 1% of 11 year olds smoked regularly compared to 21% of 15 year olds (National Centre for Social Research 2004). It is also worth noting that in the UK Natcen data, it was found that there was a high correlation 0.49 between recent use of cigarettes and of cannabis which is clearly of great concern to us.

All medical evidence points to smoking not only being dangerous to those who smoke but also to those in the proximity of someone smoking. Passive smoking – breathing other people's smoke – has now been shown to cause lung cancer in non- smokers, as well as many other illnesses.

Section 2(2) (e) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 places a duty on employers to provide a working environment for employees that is:

“ safe, without risks to health, and adequate as regards

facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work.”

As passive smoking has now been shown to be linked to the chance of lung cancer in non-smokers there is a risk to the welfare of employees and students at Queen Elizabeth High School if we allow a smoking environment. This policy has therefore been developed in order to address the risks associated with such an environment.

Aims

The aim of this policy is to make all people aware that Queen Elizabeth High School operates a no-smoking policy that is for the benefit of all staff and students. This policy is to inform everyone that smoking is not permitted inside the school buildings or on the school site by any person, at any time. This policy also applies to staff, students, visitors and contractors. It also applies to students on educational visits. (The exceptions to this policy are the site managers' houses which lie within the school boundary.)

Objectives

- To provide a tobacco smoke-free environment in which no smoking is permitted either in the buildings or school grounds of Queen Elizabeth High School.
- To provide positive measures to encourage young people/ adults to stop or reduce the level of smoking including the provision of information, advice and support. This is provided via the Young People's Health Project for students where regular drop-in sessions operate. Staff have access to information from school as well as support from LEA services (Northumberland Stop Smoking scheme, Telephone 01670 813135).
- To promote anti-smoking messages within the school curriculum e.g. via the science curriculum, the guidance programme and awareness raising assemblies.

Implementation

The Headteacher (or Deputy Headteachers in the Headteacher's absence) is responsible for the policy implementation. Signs in and around the building inform people about the policy and new staff are made aware of the policy when taking up post. New parents are informed of the no-smoking policy through the school's prospectus as well as by signs around school which also serve the purpose of informing all visitors of the policy. The policy forms part of the staff handbook and is posted on the school website for all stakeholders.

Monitoring of Smoking on the Premises

To ensure the policy is implemented various measures have been put in place

- There are **no** areas designated as smoking areas within school.
- There are smoke detectors in the main student toilets with a link to senior members of staff.
- Surveillance cameras have been installed in certain areas.
- Staff duty teams are located in areas where there are risks of young people smoking.
- Parents are always informed if students are found smoking on the school premises and detentions are issued.
- No Smoking Day activities are always organised to encourage smokers to give up with sign posting to support and to raise awareness generally regarding the risks of smoking/passive smoking.

Breaches of Policy

Students found smoking on the school site/ in buildings

Students are in breach of the policy if they are found smoking or there are reasonable grounds for suspecting smoking. The following guidelines should be followed by staff if

students are found to be smoking anywhere on school site/ inside the building/ at school gates.

Learning and Guidance Co-ordinators are to be informed in writing.

Warn the students of the dangers to themselves and the others around them.

Remind students that smoking is prohibited on the school site/ in the buildings.

Parents are contacted by Learning and Guidance Co-ordinator.

Students are placed in a year group detention for an hour.

If there is a persistent problem then the student can be expected to be secluded in Turning Point and parents will be invited in to discuss the concern and future sanctions.

Students found smoking on educational visits

Warn the students of the dangers to themselves and the others around them.

Learning and Guidance Co-ordinators to be informed in writing on their return to school.

Parents are contacted Learning and Guidance Co-ordinator.

Students are placed in year group detention for an hour.

If there is a persistent problem then the student can be expected to be secluded in Turning Point and parents will be invited in to discuss the concern and future sanctions.

The following guidelines should be followed by staff if they come across adults smoking on site.

Staff

Remind staff that this is a non-smoking site and ask them to stop.

Report to and seek support from senior staff if necessary.

Parents

Remind parents that this is a non-smoking site and ask them to stop.

If they persist ask them to leave the premises. Seek support from senior staff if necessary.

Contractors

Remind contractors that this is a non-smoking site and ask them to stop.

If they persist report it to a senior member of staff who will inform their respective company.

Monitoring

Monitoring of breaches of the policy by students will be done via SERCO reports and any patterns identified.

The policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

It should be noted that support to stop smoking is available on the school site via the Young People's Health Project. Students will be actively encouraged to articulate any wish they have to stop smoking. Regular drop-in sessions are open to students. Any sanctions for smoking will always be coupled with offers of support and further advice on smoking issues.

Date June 06

Review date June 08