

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 is a non-smoking school 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

Queen Elizabeth High School actively promotes the development of young people's self esteem through its curriculum, including the guidance programme 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 set a target in the SMOKING KILLS White Paper (2010 update pending) 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.

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 and the 2006 Health Act (http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/pdf/ukpga_20060028_en.pdf) place 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 and gardens 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 Local Authority 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 policy is made available to all members of staff, parents and visitors to raise awareness of the no-smoking environment (via website, staff handbook). 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.

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 website as well as by signs around school which also serve the purpose of informing all visitors of the policy.

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.
- Surveillance cameras operate 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. Tobacco, cigarettes, lighters, matches may be confiscated if it is suspected students have such items. Parents will be asked to collect such items from school or request disposal.
- No Smoking Day activities are 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 (letter or phone call).
- Students are placed in detention at lunchtime.
- If there is a persistent problem then the student can be expected to do an after school detention or to be secluded in Turning Point.
- If the problem continues 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.

Also note that smoking by staff or parents accompanying any visit is not permitted.

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 the site manager or a senior member of staff who will inform the 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.

This policy was agreed by the Pupil and Curriculum Development Committee at their meeting on Wednesday 19 May 2010.

Signed		Chair of Pupil & Curriculum Development Committee (Adrian Woolley)	Date	
Signed		Headteacher (Neil Morrison)	Date	
Review Date:	May 2012			