



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Non-Smoking Policy

We are a caring community which aims to promote respect and understanding of all individuals through a sharing of Catholic Faith and the love of Christ. All children will feel a sense of worth, knowing that they are valued and loved by God in their uniqueness.

We seek to create a learning environment which enables our children to succeed to their best ability and which recognises and values their variety of talents

We acknowledge the importance of our role in support for the family, the parish and the wider community.

Non-Smoking Policy

Rationale

We believe that smoking is harmful to health and we strongly discourage our children from smoking.

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. 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. 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, so that they grow up to lead a healthy lifestyle.

It is against the law to smoke on the school premises as it is a public place and a place of work (Legislation 1st July 2007).

Aims and Objectives

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.

Organisation

We teach children about the dangers of smoking as part of their Science and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme in Y5 and Y6. 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 might 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. Whilst we explain that it is illegal to sell cigarettes to people under sixteen years of age, our aim is to help the children make their own decision not to smoke simply because they believe it is the wrong lifestyle to choose. Parents may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

It is the role of the Principal, with the support of the governors, to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. The overall success of the policy will be evaluated by the Principal and Vice Principal through feedback from children, staff, parents, governors and the wider school community

Policy last reviewed: Spring 2020