

Blackwater Integrated College



Smoking Policy

History

Created: November 2018

Reviewed:

Amended:

Date ratified by Board of Governors: November 2018

Date of Review: November 2020

Colin Jones
Pastoral Coordinator

Purpose

Blackwater Integrated College is committed to the promotion of the goal of a non-smoking environment for all its employees and pupils consistent with the objective goals of health protection and the promotion of health within an educational setting.

For the purposes of this policy, Smoking is taken to include all use of tobacco products and vaping.

Objectives

- To eliminate all forms of smoking by students as part of ensuring that the school complies with its responsibility to create and maintain a safe emotional and physical environment for our students.
- To demonstrate the school's commitment to promoting the health of students and staff.
- To protect non-smokers from the adverse health effects of environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace.
- To provide information and advice for those who wish to stop smoking.
- To inform students of the Law relating to smoking.
- To ensure that all students understand the effects and potential dangers of smoking.
- To communicate to parents the school's stance on smoking.

Rationale

Smoking by students places the smokers' health at risk together with those other students who are passive smokers.

Policy Statement

The school prohibits smoking by students while at school and while they are travelling to or from school or are on school activities/holidays away from school for the following reasons:

It has been illegal to smoke in a public place, including schools, since 1st July 2007. It is also illegal for someone under the age of 18 to buy tobacco products or for an adult to buy someone under the age of 18 tobacco products.

Students health is endangered since smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in our society. Passive smoking – breathing other people's tobacco smoke – is also potentially fatal. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, as well as many other illnesses, in non-smokers.

Other students who are not smokers might be discouraged from using school facilities because of the activities of smokers.

Smoking is a Health and Safety issue for all who work at, live at and visit the School. Everyone has the right to breathe clean air.

When students are seen openly smoking at or near school or while on their way to or from school, the school's reputation is placed at risk.

All Staff – teaching, and non-teaching as well as visitors and students - may not smoke while on school premises. The prohibition of smoking will apply during related school activities undertaken outside school premises, e.g. Educational Visits and attendance at SERC.

Students need to receive consistent messages and benefit from non-smoking role models within the School.

Support, Counselling and Disciplinary Procedures

Whenever a teacher suspects that a student has been smoking a number of procedures will be put into place. Form teachers may become aware when students are reported by other staff/prefects who find students smoking or in the presence of smokers, or by students returning to class or activities smelling of smoke or being found in the possession of cigarettes, tobacco, lighters etc. The name of the offending student is reported to the Head of Junior or Senior School.

The following steps indicate the range of options open to the School. These options will be used at the discretion of Heads of Junior and Senior School. Parents/Guardians will be informed about smoking offences along with information on support from YI and Familyworks Counselling Service.

When a student is found smoking, in the possession of tobacco, or in the company of smokers he/she will be reported to the Head of Junior/Senior School.

1st offence – when a student is reported to the Head of Junior/Senior School for the first time he/she will be placed in after school detention for two hours. During this detention the work given will focus on the dangers of smoking and how to stop. There will also be a letter home (from the Head of Junior/Senior School) reiterating the school's stance and expectations, and the range of help on offer, plus warning that a second offence will incur further penalties. A copy of this letter to be kept in the students file.

2nd offence – when a student is found smoking on a second occasion he/she is reported to the Pastoral Coordinator who will then discuss the matter with the Principal and the student will be suspended for one day.

Further offences – When a student is found smoking on more than two occasions further sanctions will be discussed at a meeting between their parents/guardians and the Principal.

Students will be given every assistance to help them stop smoking, however **Electronic cigarettes, together with liquid nicotine and similar appliances, are not allowed by the school and will be treated in the same way as normal cigarettes or tobacco.**

Related issues

Students found associated with smokers (i.e. caught in the presence of smokers) are likely to incur similar penalties to a smoker caught for the first time which will include a letter home to parents/guardians from the Head of Junior/Senior School.

All pupils found in possession of cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, tobacco, liquid nicotine, lighters, lighter fuel etc. will have the smoking materials confiscated. If deemed necessary students will be asked to show a member of staff what they have in their pockets, bag or locker. If a student refuses to cooperate a parent may be called in to school. If such items are discovered and confiscated, parents will be informed that they will be held until a parent collects them. Parents may either choose to come to the school to receive the confiscated items, and sign for them, or they may choose for the school to destroy them.

Any student caught supplying cigarettes/tobacco to other students may be suspended. Persistent non-compliance with the School's Policy will lead to permanent exclusion.

Pupils may contact '**Quitline**', the free national telephone helpline for smokers – 0800 00 22 00.

Pupils may also contact various websites for information and help including:
<http://www.quit.org.uk/>
<https://quitnet.meyouhealth.com/#/>

Implementation

Members of staff will be directed to the Policy on the College Website.

The Policy procedures will form part of the induction process for new members of staff.

The Policy will be made available to Governors and all parents, copy of which will be placed on the School website.

Members of Staff shall inform school visitors of the Policy.

As a School:

We shall use any opportunity to educate and discuss aspects of smoking, to use clear direct and honest messages, to use assertiveness techniques etc. via the LLW/PSD programme.

The LLW/PSD programme emphasises the importance of educating pupils to make healthy, informed choices.

We shall encourage pupils are to think carefully about their attitudes and aspirations, and to explore ways of making decisions and of developing strategies for resisting 'peer pressure'.

The LLW/PSD programme extends across the age groups and across the curriculum.

We shall deal quickly, firmly and fairly with any complaints, involving parents, where necessary.

We shall continue to have a firm but fair discipline structure. The rules are clearly set out in the Behaviour and Relationship Policy and Staff Handbook.

We shall use outside specialist agencies to make presentations to pupils about smoking.

We shall encourage good role modelling.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy is a living document and will be reviewed every two years.

The Heads of Junior/Senior School will keep records of smoking offences.

There will be a continuing programme of INSET as deemed necessary.

Resource materials will continue to be updated and made available to both staff and pupils.

This Policy has been devised in full consultation with all staff, the Student Council and has been ratified by the Board of governors

Other Policies which have relevance to this Policy are:

Behaviour and Relationships Policy

Drugs Policy