

Smoking and Use of Electronic Cigarettes ENDS (electronic nicotine delivery systems) Policy

Rationale

This policy aims to give children, young people and non-smokers the right to live and work in air that is free of tobacco smoke. Also to enable young people to make positive informed choices about their life style.

It is a regrettable fact that a number of young people who are educated at Eden Park Academy are nicotine dependent at the point of admission (and may have been for some time). It is unrealistic (or unachievable) therefore to attempt to impose a ban on smoking. Therefore, the Academy although it does not condone smoking does allow students to smoke within a specific designated smoking area. This is in the outdoor area immediately to the rear of the school.

Staff must not smoke/'vape' whilst with young people at any time.

It is not illegal to smoke cigarettes but it is illegal to sell them to young people or to buy them on their behalf.

Young people are responsible for the provision of their own smoking materials. Under no circumstance can young person buy or provide (by giving or lending) cigarettes or tobacco for each other. Lighter should be handed into to staff until designated smoking time along with all other smoking or vaping materials.

Pupils at Eden Park Academy are discouraged from smoking and actively encouraged to stop by staff. The risks to health from smoking are taught across the curriculum in PSHE and Citizenship lessons and included in the schools SMSC methodology. This is also further reinforced in. School Council meetings and daily tutorials. Visiting speakers also visit the school throughout the year, to give further advice and guidance to young people and offer cessation guidance.

Where pupils do smoke on site, there is a single designated area for smoking, the yard to the rear of the school building. Pupils are monitored while smoking, and are only permitted to smoke during agreed (timetabled) breaks, with access to this area restricted during lesson times.

Eden Park Academy is committed to:

- Providing the highest quality of education and social development for pupils to ensure their emotional and physical well-being.
- Educating all employees, pupils, parents, contractors and other visitors of the dangers of smoking to health and that smoking is known to be the principal avoidable cause of premature deaths in the UK.



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- The compliance with anti-smoking legislation, namely Smoke -free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006 and that from the 1st July 2007 all workplaces in England must be smoke free, rendering it a criminal offence to smoke on the school premises. Although that is also tempered with the realistic approach that accepts that many of young people who are educated at Eden Park Academy are nicotine dependent at the point of admission. Therefore, as discussed above although aspirationally we would adhere rigidly to the legislation Smoke -free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006 this may not always be achievable.
- Providing a healthy, clean and safe working environment for all employees, pupils, parents, contractors and other visitors.

The Health Act 2006

The Health Act (2006) was established ‘to make provision for the prohibition of smoking in premises, places and vehicles; for amending the minimum age of persons to whom tobacco may be sold and to make provision in relation to the prevention and control of health care associated infections’.

“Smoking” refers to smoking tobacco or anything which contains tobacco, or smoking any other substance. Smoking includes being in possession of lit tobacco or of anything lit which contains tobacco, or being in possession of any other lit substance in a form in which it could be smoked. For the purposes of this policy smoking also refers to the smoking or vaping of electronic or e-cigarettes or cig-a-likes. It is our intention to project a clean and healthy image for our premises and our pupils. The less smoking or vaping appears as a normal behaviour to pupils, the less likely they are to start to smoke.

Premises will be smoke-free if they are open to the public and/or are used as a place of work. The school premises will include all buildings, any additional facilities used by Eden Park academy.

Smoking is also prohibited on vehicles hired by the school or in any vehicle on the school premises.

Electronic cigarettes e-cigs or ENDS (electronic nicotine delivery systems).

Why is there concern about e-cigarettes?

There has been a rapid increase in the use, availability and promotion Electronic cigarettes. They have been developed as a ‘lifestyle’ or consumer product, and not as a medicine. While there is potential for ENDS to reduce the harm from smoking or help smokers to quit, their effectiveness or safety has not been demonstrated. The amount of nicotine contained in e-cigarettes can vary between and within brands, from nicotine-free products through to high doses of nicotine. However, there is very little quality control which often means there is difference between what is on the label and what is delivered to the user. ENDS mimic smoking a cigarette and could



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play a role in normalising smoking behaviour. Considerable strides have been made in de-normalising smoking but there is much more to do. Anything which may reverse the progress made to denormalise smoking would be a risk to population health. The presentation of e-cigs as a safe way to smoke may provide a route to nicotine addiction for children and young people, this may in turn lead to smoking tobacco. Although current research conducted by the NHS (2016) has not confirmed this to be the case.

Although electronic cigarettes do not contain tobacco or produce smoke, and their use in enclosed workplaces and public places is not banned by law in the UK, this does not mean that as an academy we cannot introduce our own policies. We are continually seeking to promote healthy lifestyles for our pupils, and therefore do not condone smoking in any capacity nor agree with the image that these e cigarettes project. Eden Park Academy do not wish to give the impression to their pupils that smoking is in any way desirable.

Another issue is that since electronic cigarettes have only been available for a relatively short time as a smokeless alternative to the real thing, there are worries about possible long-term health effects, with concerns expressed by the World Health Organisation (2015) and in the British Medical Journal. The Department of Health (2015) also appears to be adopting a cautious approach by suggesting that users 'exercise caution' until further more conclusive research can be conducted.

School Policy

Based on the current evidence available Public Health (England) advises the following:

- Ensure school smoke free policies clearly prohibited the use of E-cigarettes and ENDS onsite including pupils, staff and visitors
- Ensure pupils, staff and visitors are aware of the changes to school policy regarding use of E-cigarettes and ENDS on site
- Ensure pupils and staff who wish to quit smoking are sign posted to stop smoking services
- Pupils should be educated about e-cigarettes within the curriculum alongside other drug education

Aims

1. To enable all pupils and staff to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes towards smoking.
2. To provide a programme of education and accurate information about the health risks associated with smoking.
3. To seek to minimise the risks and possible legal consequences for pupils and staff from smoking in prohibited places.
4. To enable young people and staff to identify sources of appropriate personal support to help with the cessation of smoking and these support mechanisms are open to them when they are needed
5. To have clear procedures for dealing with anyone found smoking on the premises or in the case of pupils found to be in possession of smoking materials, to ensure that such procedures are consistent and clearly understood.
6. To ensure an adequate programme for Personal, Social Education & Health, with appropriate resourcing and staff training is in place to help young people make informed decisions about smoking.
8. To ensure that pupils, staff, parents, contractors and any other visitors are informed about the school's policy and procedures relating to smoking.
9. To enter into an agreement with parents, carer and pupils which clearly identifies the responsibilities of all involved and that this "agreement" is signed by both school and pupils. (see appendix 4 Contract)

Practice

The school seeks to create the conditions in which pupils and staff take responsibility for their own health and behaviour. For this to take place, staff, pupils and parents should work to an agreed set of standards which clearly identifies the consequences of a failure to work towards them. This Smoking Policy will, therefore, clearly define the consequences for noncompliance and so create the correct, healthy and clean conditions within school in which everyone can work. The school will also work within Local Authority (LA) and Local Council guidelines and strategies for promoting health, safety and well-being for all within the school.

Eden Park Academy will seek to build an effective partnership between the school, carers and pupils and will inform homes and stakeholders about the non-compliance of their children with this policy. The school will acknowledge and support the efforts of its pupils and staff to improve their health through the cessation of smoking and will promote non-smoking through curriculum materials, tutorial sessions, assemblies and appropriate displays. The school will challenge the behaviour of those pupils and parents who give low priority to the elimination of smoking on school premises.

The measures contained within this policy can include measures to regulate and control the behaviour of staff or pupils when they are not being educated within school, e.g. when attending college placements, on work experience, school visits, or on any other occasion when pupils are not on the school premises but are in the charge of the school.

Consequences protocol for non-compliance on school premises by staff

Disciplinary procedures may be followed if a member of staff does not comply with this policy.

Protocol for non-compliance on school premises by visitors

Visitors who do not comply with this policy will be asked to leave the premises.

Protocol for non-compliance on school premises by pupils

Pupils will face consequences if they do not comply with the policy

- They are seen smoking in any other place other than the designated smoking area.
- They are seen with a lit cigarette in their possession outside that area.
- If it is deemed to be a Health and Safety matter and students are at risk of becoming a risk to the safety of themselves or others, then care staff will be asked to remove them immediately from the school. If this is not complied with by the student, then additional measures will be taken.

After the incident

1. A report of the incident will be completed by the relevant member of staff and this report will be passed to the Deputy/Head Teacher.
2. The school administrator will notify the parents or carers of the pupil concerned by letter (appendix 1, 2 or depending on whether there has been previous incidents).
3. The school administrator may notify the CLA school nurse of the incident and they may consider making an appointment for the pupil concerned to meet with the nurse for health and cessation advice.

In extreme cases where the school consequences appear to be having no effect on certain pupils and their smoking behaviour, carers may be asked to take the student home from education, and further actions taken such as the student being educated at home.

Support

The school takes its responsibilities in supporting staff and pupils to maintain their health and wellbeing seriously and the following are some of strategies in place to help with the cessation of smoking.



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1. The NHS offers a range of services to help smokers to give up. Visit www.gosmokefree.co.uk or call the NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0 169 for details. Alternatively, you can text 'GIVE UP' and your full postcode to 88088 to find your local NHS Stop Smoking Service.
2. Pupils in school can access the CLA school nurse via the school or home for help and advice and an appointment can be made directly.
3. The school will offer a peer mentor to young people who feel they would benefit from the support of another young person.
4. Local Pharmacies are supportive of people trying to give up smoking and the following provide a smoking cessation service free of charge to young people below the age of 16.

Appendix 1.

Letter 1: Initial Notification Letter

Dear Parent or Carer

RE: Smoking on School Premises

I regret to notify you that (insert name) has been caught smoking on the school premises outside of the school designated smoking area.

The school takes an extremely dim view of this as it is a serious breach of the school rules, the County Council Policy on Smoke Free Spaces and the 2006 legislation which makes it unlawful to purchase or smoke cigarettes below the age of 18 or to smoke in public spaces.

As a consequence of this (insert name) will (insert consequence)

Whilst it's important for our young people to realise there is a consequence for their actions it is also important for them to realise that the school takes its responsibilities in supporting them with their health and well-being also very seriously. To this end we will be passing their names to the school nurse who will arrange to see them about the long term health dangers of smoking and to give them advice on "giving up."

I do hope you will join us in supporting (insert name) with this to ensure that the full consequences of their actions are understood. Smoking is known to be the principal most avoidable cause of premature deaths

in the UK accounting for the lives of 186,000 people.

Yours sincerely

(Insert name)

Appendix 2

Letter 2: Persistent Smoking

Dear Parent or Carer

RE: Smoking on School Premises

I regret to notify you that (insert name) has been caught smoking on the school premises.



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As you will know the school takes an extremely dim view of this as it is a serious breach of the school rules, the County Council Policy on Smoke Free Spaces and the 2006 legislation which makes it unlawful to purchase cigarettes below the age of 18 or to smoke in public spaces.

As a consequence of this (insert name) will (insert consequence)

This is not the first incident of this nature and it appears that strategies adopted previously seem to be having little or no effect. This cannot continue.

Whilst the support strategies will remain in place for (insert name) we also have a measure of other consequences that we are prepared to adopt.

The school smoking policy makes our position clear on persistent smoking and the fact that non-compliance with this policy will not be tolerated.

I do hope you will join us in supporting (insert name) with this to ensure that the full consequences of their actions are understood. Smoking is known to be the principal most avoidable cause of premature deaths in the UK accounting for the lives of 186,000 people.

Yours sincerely

(Insert name)

Appendix 3

Letter 3: Home Involvement

Dear Parent or Carer

RE: Smoking on School Premises

I regret to notify you that (insert name) has been caught yet again smoking on the school premises.



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As you will know the school takes an extremely dim view of this as it is a serious breach of the school rules, the County Council Policy on Smoke Free Spaces and the 2006 legislation which makes it unlawful to purchase cigarettes below the age of 18 or to smoke in public spaces.

As a consequence of this (insert name) will (insert consequence) (insert name) is persistently breaking the smoking rules as there have been several incidents of this nature and it appears that strategies adopted previously seem to be having little or no effect. We cannot allow this to continue. The school smoking policy makes our position clear and the fact that non-compliance with this policy will not be tolerated.

An appointment has been made with (insert name of staff) on (insert day and time) in order to discuss the severity of the situation and explore ways in which both school and (insert name) can move forward from this point in order to prevent the full weight of school sanctions being deployed.

I do hope you will join us in supporting (insert name) with this to ensure that the full consequences of their actions are understood. Smoking is known to be the principal most avoidable cause of premature deaths in the UK accounting for the lives of 186,000 people.

Yours sincerely

(Insert name)

Appendix 4: Contract

What we believe in:

We at Eden Park Academy are committed to providing the highest quality of education and social development for our pupils to ensure their emotional and physical well-being.

We are committed to the compliance with anti-smoking legislation, namely Smoke - free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006 and that from the 1st July 2007

all workplaces in England must be smoke free, rendering it a criminal offence to smoke on the school premises.

We are committed to providing a healthy, clean and safe working environment for all employees, pupils, parents, contractors and other visitors.

What we will do:

- Help all pupils to make healthy, informed choices by helping them to learn about the dangers and health risks associated with smoking and by challenging attitudes towards smoking.
- Help our young people to get appropriate personal support to help them to stop smoking.

What carers/homes can do

- Support you through encouragement, rewards and incentives to ensure you do the right thing in regards to managing the young person's health needs.
- Listen and help you and not be too judgmental.
- Help the school to support you.

What you will do:

- Ensure that all smoking related material into school including cigarettes, lighters, matches, tobacco, cigarette papers or any such like material are passed to either care staff or the school office for safe keeping.
- Smoke only in the designated smoking area.
- Engage with all the strategies that school deploy in order to help you to stop smoking including attending any sessions that have been arranged by the school or the home, working with outside agencies who have expertise in this area or any other strategy that school uses for the purpose of support.

I understand that the school has a duty of care and a legal responsibility to take these measures to prevent me from smoking on school premises. I am also aware of the seriousness of the position I find myself in and understand that further transgression may result in consequences from school which could include but is not limited to being educated at home for a prescribed period, a meeting with the Deputy/Head Teacher or as a final resort exclusion for a prescribed period that will be decided by the Deputy/Head Teacher.

I agree to abide by the conditions above

Signed.....Date.....

Signed on behalf of the school

Signed Date.....