

No Smoking Policy

Approved by Governors: Summer 2007

Review Date: Summer 2010

Person Responsible: Mrs Maher

Rationale

In England six in seven 15 year olds don't smoke regularly. Out of the one in seven 15 year olds who do: 11% are boys and 17% are girls. (www.ash.org.uk)

County Durham is working towards becoming a smoke free community where no employee or member of the public is involuntarily exposed to second hand smoke.

The Health Act 2006 introduced legislation to make all enclosed workplaces and public places smoke free from 1 July 2007. This policy enhances this legislation.

Second hand smoking, breathing in other people's tobacco smoke, has been shown to cause cancers, heart and breathing difficulties in non-smokers. Sedgefield Community College acknowledges that second hand tobacco smoke is both, a public and work place health hazard and has therefore adopted this no smoking policy.

Sedgefield Community College is in an ideal position to influence the health of the community we serve. Our ethos combined with our smoking education programme and the messages given about tobacco have key roles to play in reducing smoking amongst young people, staff and visitors.

Aims of the Policy

The policy seeks to:

- Guarantee a healthy working environment and protect the current and future health of employees, members and visitors.
- Guarantee the right of non-smokers to breathe in air free from tobacco smoke.
- To comply with Health & Safety Legislation and Employment Law.
- Raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke.
- Take account of the needs of those who smoke and to support those who wish to stop.
- Support the health and well-being of our young people through an education that enables them to make informed choice.

Consultation

- o Headteacher's Newsletter to Parents (wider community)
- o Student Voice
- o Governor Consultation

Every Child Matters

As part of contributing to the development of healthy lifestyles in children, students will be taught the importance of healthy eating, drinking water and the avoidance of smoking and alcohol.

Restrictions on Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in any part of the premises, entrances (*this means school door and school gate*) or grounds at any time, by any person regardless of their status or business with Sedgefield Community College

Smoking will not be tolerated at entrances and exits and is not permitted in any of the following areas: offices, corridors, stairways or wells, toilets, meeting or staff rooms, reception or waiting areas, classrooms, kitchens, outbuildings and car parks.

Smoking is not permitted by anyone accompanying pupils on school outings.

Publicising the Policy

A copy of this policy is available electronically in RM staff. Hardcopies are available upon request.

New employees will be informed of the existence of this policy in recruitment and induction information.

Visitors

All visitors, contractors and deliverers are required to abide by the no smoking policy. Staff members are expected to inform customers or visitors of the no smoking policy. However they are not expected to enter into any confrontation, which may put their personal safety at risk.

Dealing with abuses of the Policy

Employees who attempt to abuse this policy may face disciplinary action. Sedgefield Community College takes false or misleading accusations very seriously which may result in further action being taken through the Disciplinary Procedure. This will not include ill-founded allegations that were made in good faith

If a student is caught smoking or thought to be smoking (with a group of smokers) a Smoking proforma is completed and sent to Student Services. A letter is sent to parents to inform them of the incident, the letter also contains information on the harm caused by smoking and a referral is made to PE for the student to undertake a fitness test. The student will also receive a school sanction e.g. detention and the opportunity to have a meeting with the school nurse to educate them on the dangers of smoking.

Vehicles

Smoking is not permitted in vehicles or any vehicles being used on school business.

Support for smokers

For those who smoke, information with regard to local NHS Stop Smoking Services, local cessation services and the National Don't Give Up Giving Up free-phone number (0800 169 0 169) are available.

Training

Identified training will be supported for all staff as part of their professional development.

Implementation

A whole school approach will be used when developing and reviewing this policy. Sedgefield Community College will ensure that adequate signage is displayed and maintained. Tobacco will be dealt with in the same way as any other drug therefore the Incident Management procedures, as detailed in our Drug Education Policy, will be followed, ensuring staff and pupils who breach this policy are disciplined appropriately.

Monitoring and reviewing

Changes to legislation and guidance will be considered as part of the review process. This policy will be reviewed in line with the school review cycle to ensure that it continues to meet the aims.

Comments related to the maintenance of this policy should be directed to the Person responsible for No Smoking which is Mrs Maher.