



## Smoke Free School Policy

### Our Vision

At Bournes Green Infant School the governors, staff, children, parents and carers work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust in a community that is strengthened and enriched by a diversity of background, culture and religion. Our priority is to foster the self-confidence, self-esteem and independence of *all* in a climate of growth and opportunity that will enable us to achieve the highest standards. We actively promote a healthy environment in which children enjoy learning and develop the skills needed to become responsible members of society. We aim to bring learning to life.

'**Strength Through Wisdom**' was the original mission statement for our school. Today we nurture our children to be confident and articulate with an enjoyment of learning in the belief that this will enable them to gain strength from their developing wisdom.

By law schools are covered by the Smoke-free Law to protect employees and the public from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. ENDS (electronic nicotine delivery systems) ("e-cigarettes") are battery-powered products that release a visible vapour that contains liquid nicotine. Whilst ENDS fall outside of the scope of smoke-free legislation, we are following the BMA's, DFE and LA guidance, NAHT and NUT advice and extending the existing smoke-free legislation to them, not least because some models can, particularly from a distance, look like real cigarettes, making a smoking ban difficult to police, and creating an impression for visitors, staff or other employees that it is acceptable to smoke. ENDS will be treated in the same way as normal cigarettes and should not be 'smoked' anywhere on the School premises.

### Rationale

- 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.
- Smoking is a health and safety issue for all adults who use the school: staff and parents.
- Everyone has a right to breathe clean air, and non-smokers are in the majority.
- Schools have a major role to play in working towards non-smoking being seen as the norm in society.
- Children need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models within the school.

## Objectives

- To protect non-smokers from the adverse health effects of environmental tobacco smoke and ENDS vapours in the workplace.
- To demonstrate the school's commitment to promoting the health of children and staff.
- To provide information and advice for those who wish to stop smoking.

Bournes Green Infant School regards itself as a health-promoting school. It recognises that its' staff act as role models for children in all aspects of school life, including health promotion. Second hand smoking - breathing in other people's smoke - has now been shown to cause lung cancer and heart disease in non-smokers, as well as many other illnesses and minor conditions. Bournes Green Infant School acknowledges that breathing in other people's tobacco smoke is both a public health hazard and a welfare issue.

It is also noted that ENDS (e-cigarettes) mimic the effects of real cigarettes. Public Health and other leading health authority experts say it is not yet known what harm the tobacco-free devices could inflict. The fact that ENDS exhaled aerosols contains, on average, lower levels of toxicants than the emissions from combusted tobacco does not mean that these levels are acceptable to involuntary exposed bystanders. In fact, exhaled aerosol is likely to increase above background levels the risk of disease to bystanders, especially in the case of *some* ENDS that produce toxicant levels in the range of that produced by some cigarettes.

## Restrictions on smoking:

### Staff

All staff - teaching, support and peripatetic, may not smoke tobacco or use ENDS while on school premises and grounds.

### Parents

Parents may not smoke tobacco or use ENDS while on school premises and grounds. Parents will be informed of this restriction during the children induction process, in intermittent reminders on the newsletter and by being signposted to this policy on the school website.

### Visitors

The smoking policy applies to all visitors to the school, for example parents, suppliers, supply or temporary staff, contractors, sports coaches, etc. The following arrangements have been made for informing visitors of the policy's existence:

- Clearly worded signs will be sited to announce the policy.
- Staff members will inform visitors of the policy when necessary.

### School related activities

Employees should be mindful of their professional standing when being seen smoking in public potentially in sight of children, in order to reinforce a comprehensive approach.

The policy also applies to all school hired vehicles. Employees are asked to refrain from smoking in their own vehicles, when on the premises and when used on school business.

The prohibition of smoking tobacco or ENDS will apply during related school activities undertaken outside school premises, eg educational visits. School premises utilised outside normal working hours. When school premises are used for purposes other than school related activities the school smoking policy will still remain in operation.

### **Procedures**

If staff are found smoking tobacco or using ENDS on school premises, grounds or school related activities this will be subject to disciplinary action.

If parents or visitors are found smoking tobacco or using ENDS on school premises or grounds, they will be subject to visitor code of conduct procedures.

Parents assisting on school activities and educational visits are subject to the same no smoking policy as staff.

### **Systems of support**

Staff, parents and visitors wishing to stop smoking tobacco or e-cigarettes can seek support and advice from:

- NHS Stop Smoking Services (<http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>)
- GP Surgeries

### **Implementing and monitoring**

- Members of staff will be provided a copy of this policy and will be expected to adhere to school expectations.
- Parents will be informed of the policy.
- Members of staff will inform school visitors of the policy.
- Signs and notices will be posted in prominent positions throughout the school premises.

### **Review**

This document was revised by staff and approved by the Governing Body in Autumn 2015. It will be reviewed in line with our Policy and Key Documentation Review Timetable.