

Smoke Free School Policy 2021-2022



We include E cigarettes in our definition of smoking.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has emphasised the urgency of protecting future generations from the consequences of tobacco use and exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke. There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, which causes more than 1.2 million premature deaths per year. Almost half of children regularly breathe tobacco polluted air, smoking experimentation and uptake can begin in the primary school years, two thirds of adult smokers start smoking before the age of 18 with almost 40% smoking regularly before the age of 16 (ONS, 2013). There is evidence (Katikireddi et al, 2016) that smoke-free legislation may help reduce smoking uptake amongst teenagers, encourage smokers to quit, protect the health of non-smokers and de-normalise smoking. Consequently, the implementation of a smoking ban in all areas of the school setting may have a beneficial impact on adolescents smoking behaviour. Kuiper et al (2015) suggested that less exposure to smoking on school grounds might reduce the possibility that adolescents will start smoking.

We believe

- A Smokefree School provides an environment that protects and promotes the health and well-being of the entire school community.
- Smokefree school settings reinforce messages within the school curriculum about the harmful effects of smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke.
- Young people are more likely to start smoking if they see adults smoking.
- Pupils and staff have the right to a safe and healthy Smoke-free environment.
- As stated in Article 24 of the United Nations Conventions of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): ***Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy.***

[UNCRC summary-1 1.pdf \(unicef.org.uk\)](#)

Purpose of policy:

- To ensure a healthy smokefree environment at our school.
- **To ensure compliance to the Smoke Free Law which came into force on March 1st, 2021:**
[Smoke-free law: guidance on the changes from March 2021 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

Legislative requirement

- As of the 1st of March, 2021, schools are required to be Smoke Free Premises by Law. **It is now an offense to Smoke or Vape on the premises of Johnston School**
- Smoking is forbidden anywhere within the buildings and school grounds 24 hours a day 7 days a week.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere on school grounds or within 10 metres of the school's perimeter
- Smoke-free signs must be displayed at all entrances to school grounds and at every outer entrance to every building or enclosed area forming part of the school premises.
- Smoking is not permitted in any commercial vehicle being used to transport pupils to or from school.
- Smoking is not permitted in any vehicle being used to transport pupils or staff to off site school activities (including private vehicles if being used on official school business e.g. transporting staff to training courses or pupils to sporting activities)

What are School Grounds?

As stated in the Smoke Free Law Guidance, March 2021, School Grounds has the meaning given by Section 4 of the Education Act 1996 and defined as:

‘those areas that are not enclosed or substantially enclosed and are used exclusively or mainly by the school for educational, sporting or recreational purposes. All schools in Wales with school grounds are included in the legislation.

School grounds that are next to or adjoin the school will be required to be smoke-free when either the school or the grounds are being used for education or childcare, for example a school sports field. In this case, the school sports field will be smoke-free during school hours. School grounds that do not adjoin the school, will be required to be smoke-free when the grounds or any part of the grounds are being used

for education or childcare. For example, if a school has a sports field that is for its sole use, but which is across the road from the school, the sports field will be smoke-free only when being used by the school.

Compliance to the Smoke Free Premises Law, March 1st, 2021:

To ensure compliance and commitment to the Law, the School has:

- Nominated a Senior Member of Staff to ensure compliance. The member of staff is **Mr Gareth Thomas (Headteacher)**
- Displayed prominent Smoke Free Signs at the entrances of the School in addition to displaying further posters across the school in various locations
- Informed Governors that an update to the previous Smoke-Free Policy has been undertaken as a result of the new Law.
- Displayed our Smoke-free School Grounds Policy in the staff room and school website
- Informed Parents/ Carers of this new Law through our Social Media platforms and School Prospectus
- Provided relevant information with regards to the new law on our School website
- Provided information and support lines in relation to Smoke Cessation on our School website for Staff/Parents/Carers who wish to make a quit attempt

Enforcement Action:

- Anyone smoking on the School Premises will be informed that they are committing an offence and reasonable steps will be taken in order to prevent them from smoking
- Support will be provided through the signposting of various Support Lines to those who have smoked or vaped on site
- Persons smoking on the school premises will be advised that their actions could result in a fine
- If a person continues to smoke / vape they will be asked to leave the premises
- If a person refuses to leave the school premises then the school will implement the normal procedures of anti-social behaviour and the police will be called
- The school will complete a written record of the incident and its outcome by completing an Incident Report Form, please refer to Appendix 1
- Outcome of the incident may result in that person(s) being asked to leave the premises or banned from the premises for a specific length of time or on a permanent basis
- If physical violence is threatened, then the school will seek assistance from the Police or School Police Liaison Officer

Commitment to Smoke Free School Premises:

The School will continue to role-model Smoke-free environments by:

- Teaching pupils about the benefits of not smoking through our Health & Well-being AOLE, Science AOLE and our School Well-being days
- Participating in local/national initiatives e.g. Theatre in education programmes, Police Liaison Programme and relevant National Health Campaigns such as 'National No Smoking Day'
- Informing contractors and other visitors working within our school's premises of our Smokefree Policy

- Ensuring that organisations/individuals using school facilities agree to comply with our Smokefree Policy
- Investigating complaints of any breach of our Smokefree Policy and implementing sanctions consistently
- Promoting all school activities outside of our school’s premises as smokefree, e.g. field trips, sporting events etc.
- Declaring a Smoke-free zone at school site entrances by displaying a Smoke-Free school sign and ‘Smoke Free School Gates’ banner
- Ensuring that the signs remain clearly visible and will renewed when required.
- Providing information about Support Lines available through our School Website / App such as ‘Stop Smoking Wales’ to staff, parents/carers and pupils who smoke.

..... Chair of Governors

..... Headteacher

Date.... 14th September 21.....

Review Date:September 22.....

References:

- 1: Public Health Wales Act 2017: [Public Health \(Wales\) Act 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)
- 2: Smoke Free Premises & Vehicles (Wales) Reputation:
[The Smoke-free Premises and Vehicles \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)
- 3: Smoke Free Law: Guidance on the changes from March 2021:
[Smoke-free law: guidance on the changes from March 2021 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)
- 4: Enforcement Guidance & Protocols – Smoke Free Premises +Vehicles: [enforcement-guidance-and-protocols-smoke-free-premises-and-vehicles.pdf \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)
- 5: World Health Organisation website: [Tobacco \(who.int\)](https://who.int)
- 6: United nations Convention of the right of the Child (UNCRC): [Layout 1 \(unicef.org.uk\)](https://unicef.org.uk) (Refer to Article 24)

Support Lines:

- [Help Me Quit | Stop Smoking Services In Wales](https://www.helpmequit.org.uk)
- [DAN 247 – Wales Drug and Alcohol Helpline](https://www.dan247.org.uk)
- [Honest information about drugs | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](https://www.talktofrank.com)
- [NHS 111 Wales - Health A-Z : Smoking \(quitting\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Appendix 1 – Incident Report Form:

Substance Misuse Incident Reporting Form

School:	Date of incident:	Date & Time incident reported:	
Persons involved:	Names:	Home contact number:	
Description:			
Category:	Action Taken:	By whom:	Who contacted:

--	--	--	--

1: Possession 2: Use 3: Supply 4: Pupil / Parent / Visitor

Name & description of Substance:	Amount:	Removed by:	Where retained:
---	----------------	--------------------	------------------------

Signed Title Date	Witnessed by Title Date
--	--

Contacts and referrals made (where appropriate)

Contacts	Contact name and number	Contact made by	Time and date contact made	Enquiry/Referral (Appointment time)
Parents/Carers				
Police				
Ambulance				
Other health professional				
Social services duty team				
Environmental health				
Education department				
Drug support agency				
Other:				

Outcome:

Attach any details of meetings/actions/plans as appropriate:

Signed: _____

Witnessed by: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

This form should now be kept in a secure central file.

STAFF : Please sign and date below to show that you have read this policy, thank you.

Name of staff member	Job Role	Date	Signature

