



CRYNALLT PRIMARY SCHOOL Non-smoking Policy

Introduction

At Crynallt School we believe that smoking is harmful to health, and that we should do our utmost to ensure that pupils do not start to smoke and that they are fully educated on the effects of smoking. Consequently, and in accordance with the law on smoking in confined and public spaces, the school is a non-smoking establishment.

Rationale

Research shows that almost a quarter of all young people are regular smokers by the age of 15. Almost all adult smokers took up the habit when they were children. About 450 children a day take up the habit. Smoking is regarded by the medical profession as the major cause of many illnesses. It is estimated that approximately 120,000 smokers a year die in the UK because of their smoking habit. Children can be harmed by passive smoking, i.e. by inhaling smoke from other people's cigarettes. It is known that smoking is harmful to the unborn babies of mothers who smoke. For all these reasons, our school does all it can to discourage children from smoking, and to educate them, so that they grow up to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Aims and objectives

We aim to:

- help children know and understand the dangers of smoking, and the harmful effects that smoking can have on their bodies;
- provide children with the knowledge and information necessary for them to make responsible choices in relation to smoking;
- equip children with the social skills that enable them to resist the pressure to smoke, either from their peer group, or from society in general.

Organisation

We teach children about the dangers of smoking as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme in Year 6, with advice and support from the Health Authority. As well as teaching the children about the effects that smoking has on the body, we engage them in discussions about the reasons why people start to smoke, and what they themselves might do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes. The children's class teacher leads all such discussions in a sensitive manner. S/he encourages the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking. While we explain that it is illegal to sell cigarettes to people under sixteen years of age, our aim is to help the children make their own decision not to smoke simply because they believe it is the wrong lifestyle to choose.

The dangers of smoking sometimes arise as an issue in science lessons at Key Stage 2, when children learn about the way substances affect the body, e.g. when we teach them about how medicines can help the body. When such an issue arises, the class teacher deals with it in context, and answers the children's questions to the best of his/her ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided.

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Parents may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use in our school. We make these materials readily available at our annual presentation to parents of Year 6 children about the PSHE curriculum.

If we discover that a child has started a smoking habit outside school, we will inform the parents/ carers as a matter of course. This is done to ensure that the child has the best possible opportunity to stop smoking before it becomes habitual.

Staff

Staff are not allowed to smoke on the school premises. If any member of staff smokes they are expected to ensure that this is not evident to pupils in school as we do not wish to present adult smokers as role models. Should we find any member of staff smoking at school, we would consider this a serious breach of the terms of employment.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. The governors review this policy as part of their curriculum committee's monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's PSHE programme.

This policy will be reviewed in the Summer Term 2022

Signed:

Date: