Holmer Green First School and Pre-School
Smoke Free Policy

Introduction
At our school, we take our duty seriously to promote children and young people's wellbeing and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (Education and Inspection Act, 2006). We see our commitment to creating a smoke free environment and developing pupil's knowledge, attitudes and skills in decision making around smoking as part of our work on keeping children and young people safe around drugs and managing risk. Accordingly, this policy compliments our school's Drug Policy.

Aim
To ensure a whole-school approach to tobacco, e-cigarettes and vaping in order to protect all members of the school community from the harms of second-hand smoke and to prevent the uptake of, and reduce the prevalence of, smoking across the school community.

Objectives

- To provide a smoke free school environment for the whole school community.
- To ensure that smoking education is part of the school's progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use).
- To ensure that all staff promote positive attitudes and behaviour in relation to smoking.
- To ensure that staff have the knowledge and understanding of policies, procedures and agreed practice to support the implementation of the Smoke Free Policy.
- To adopt and support interventions that aim to prevent the uptake of smoking amongst pupils, staff, parents/carers and members of the wider school community.
- To involve the wider school community in interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking in children and young people, by providing stop smoking groups/support for parents and carers and through helping them to talk to their children about tobacco and other risk taking behaviours.
- To provide assistance for pupils, staff and other members of the school community who smoke and wish to stop.
- To ensure that the school's Smoke Free Policy is applied when children/young people are taken off site.

Rationale
All members of the school community have the right to work and learn in a smoke free environment.

Exposure to second hand smoke (passive smoking) increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Exposure to role models who smoke also normalises smoking behaviour, which can have a significant negative impact on the delivery of the smoke free message.

Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death and illness in England, responsible for over 80,000 deaths per year. It kills half of all long term users. Two thirds of all new smokers in England are young people under the age of 18. Those who start smoking before the age of 16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke compared to those who begin later in life, and are more likely to be heavier smokers (Muller 2007). The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater their risk of developing life-threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease if they continue smoking into adulthood.

Smoke free school sites and non-smoking staff provide positive role models for children and young people and contribute to the development of a health-promoting school.

Please note that this includes the use of e-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes), vaping products and e-shisha.

Providing a smokefree environment

- This policy applies to pupils, staff, parents/carers, members of the public, contractors or others working/using the school premises or vehicles and all vehicles used to transport pupils.
- Smoking is not permitted in any part of the school's premises and grounds including the entrance area to the school, on land adjacent to the school building (e.g. car parks, garden areas, walkways, playgrounds, playing fields etc.) or on the school road crossing patrol areas. This policy will apply equally to future premises at the construction stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.
- There are no designated smoking areas provided within the school buildings or grounds.
- The Smoke Free Policy applies to all events/activities held in the school including before and after school sessions, any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events e.g. the Summer Fayre.
- Suitable posters, displays and statutory no smoking signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke free working environment.
- During PTA events, no smoking signs will be clearly displayed.
- Smoking is not permitted in any school owned/hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying pupils or staff on school business. **Please note: this is a statutory requirement.** Schools also have a duty to reinforce the smoking legislation on buses used for pupil transport.
- This policy applies when pupils are taken off site on school excursions/visits/trips. Staff and accompanying helpers will be reminded that smoking is not permitted when on duty/looking after pupils.

Smoking prevention activities

- Employees are not permitted to smoke in the view of pupils. Employees who do smoke will be asked to ensure they cannot be seen smoking by pupils.
- Tobacco education is part of the school's progressive entitlement curriculum (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use) which may be delivered across the curriculum.

- A range of age appropriate methodologies will be used to deliver tobacco education with the aim of preventing the uptake of smoking.
- Training on drugs including tobacco is available for all teaching staff as appropriate as well as support staff and those involved in smoking prevention work including the Headteacher, teachers, school governors and support staff.

Responding to smoking related incidents
The following procedures will apply when there is non-compliance with the Smoke Free Policy.

Staff
The Schools Disciplinary Procedure will be followed for members of staff who do not comply with the school's Smoke Free Policy.

The staff member will be offered support to help them quit smoking through linking them with appropriate support in the community.

School Visitors
Staff are authorised to ask school visitors who breach the policy to adhere to it.

Assistance for those who smoke
- Local NHS Stop Smoking Services are available to staff and parents/carers who would like to stop smoking (please note: this service should **not** be seen as a disciplinary action). Free group and one-to-one support may be available for staff and parents/carers through their local Stop Smoking Service -
  (Details of local Stop Smoking Service which can be found at: https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/
- The NHS Stop Smoking Service may be able to set up a group for parents/carers and/or staff in school upon request.