

SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

SMOKE FREE SCHOOL POLICY

Background Information

Shirley High School is an 11- 18 mixed comprehensive school served by many different feeder primary schools covering the London Borough of Croydon and parts of the neighbouring London boroughs. The school is extensively used out of hours by community groups and is let for functions.

Rationale

It is estimated that each year around 207,000 children in the UK start smoking. Among adult smokers, about two-thirds report that they took up smoking before the age of 18 and over 80% before the age of 20. The 2011 General Lifestyle Survey of adult smokers revealed that almost two-fifths (40%) had started smoking regularly before the age of 16. Among children who try smoking it is estimated that between one third and one half are likely to become regular smokers within two to three years.

Smoking initiation is associated with a wide range of risk factors including: parental and sibling smoking, the ease of obtaining cigarettes, smoking by friends and peer group members, socio- economic status, exposure to tobacco marketing, and depictions of smoking in films, television and other media.

Children who experiment with cigarettes can quickly become addicted to the nicotine in tobacco. Children may show signs of addiction within four weeks of starting to smoke and before they commence daily smoking.

In the 2014 survey of school-children in England, 53% of young people who had smoked for under one year say they would find it difficult to stop for one week compared to 85% for those who have smoked more than one year. The survey also found that 29% of regular smokers said that they wanted to give up smoking, while 56% reported that they had tried to give up.

There is a strong association between smoking and other substance use. As in previous years, the 2014 secondary school survey found strong overlaps of substance use. Based on those who gave valid responses, among 15-year olds, 10% reported smoking in the week before the survey; including 9% who had also drunk alcohol or taken drugs recently, or had done both.

Source: ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) Young People and Smoking Fact Sheet 2015 http://ash.org.uk/files/documents/ASH_108.pdf

Principles

Schools have a major role to play in health education and prevention. Young people need to receive consistent messages and require non smoking role models within the school.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) the school has a duty of care to provide a healthy work environment. Everyone has the right to a smoke free environment. From 2007 all public buildings and sites must be smoke-free by law. On 1 October 2007 the legal age for the purchase of tobacco in England and Wales was raised from 16 to 18. On 1 October 2015 it became an offence to sell e-cigarettes to anyone under 18 in England and Wales and for an adult to purchase tobacco products on behalf of a person under the age of 18 (ASH 2015).

Shirley High School is committed to the Healthy Schools Initiative and was re-designated as a Healthy School in October 2015. It is committed to providing support for achieving a healthy lifestyle and discouraging tobacco use. This includes the use of electronic vapourisers (including e-cigarettes), as these often look like normal cigarettes and evidence suggests young people may be influenced by adults smoking e-cigarettes (ASH 2015).

Aim

- To provide a smoke-free school environment for everyone. This includes the use of electronic smoking devices.
- To provide young people with consistent messages regarding tobacco use, and appropriate role models.

Restrictions on Smoking within the Workplace

- Smoking (including e-cigarettes) will NOT be permitted in any part of the school premises. This includes all buildings and all land adjacent to the school site (car park, driveway, walkways, sports fields, redgra, etc.) where this forms part of the school premises. It includes the School House and its designated garden.
- The enforcement of this total smoking ban will be the responsibility of all persons, including students within the school. The school's disciplinary procedure will apply for dealing with employees who breach the smoking ban at work. Any employees who raise genuine concerns about breaches of this policy will be listened to and supported by the senior leadership group, in line with the 'Whistle Blowing Policy'.
- This policy applies to employees, parents, visitors, members of the public, contractors and others working in or using the school premises or minibus.
- Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to leave the premises.
- The smoking policy will apply to all activities held in the school including before and after school sessions and any meetings which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.
- Employees should avoid being seen smoking in public in sight of students, parents and visitors in order to reinforce a consistent and comprehensive approach.
- Non compliance by students to this policy will be dealt with in accordance with the Behaviour policy.

Designated Smoking Areas / Facilities for Smokers

Facilities for smoking in the workplace are not provided. There are no designated smoking areas provided within the school premises. This policy is in line with Government guidelines and the National Healthy Schools standards. No Smoking signs are to support this.

Vehicles

The smoking ban will apply to all school owned/hired/leased vehicles. No-one is permitted to smoke inside any school owned/hired/leased vehicles.

Help with Smoking Cessation

The school will support employees and students in school wishing to give up smoking. Information and resources regarding external smoking cessation services are available through PSHE or from the SLG member with responsibility for student wellbeing.

Recruitment

This school is a No Smoking school and this will be made clear within all its recruitment procedures, staff handbooks and school prospectus.

Links

We develop and evaluate all school policies with a view to helping all children achieve more and in line with our Healthy Schools status. These policies are set out separately but have links to this policy:

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- SPD Policy (including PSHE policy).
- Behaviour Policy
- Healthy Schools Policies - Physical Activity Policy, Whole School Food Policy
- Health and Safety Policy.
- Staff Code of Conduct

Amended and approved – June 2016