

St Luke's Primary School



St Luke's School No Smoking/Vaping Policy

(Updated October 2017)

Introduction

At St Luke's Primary School we believe that smoking is harmful to health, and so we strongly discourage our children from smoking. We abide by the States of Jersey Smoking policy and consequently, the school is a non-smoking establishment in order to promote a healthy working and learning environment for all children and adults. In order to promote a healthy lifestyle this policy also includes discouraging vaping on our site.

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.
- promote a healthy, smoke-free environment in school.

Organisation

We teach children about the dangers of smoking as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme, 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. He or she 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, 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 their 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. Whenever possible, we use the expertise of external professionals to support parents and to help them to educate their children.

If children are found to be smoking in school, or cigarettes are found in their possession, the cigarettes are confiscated from the child and the parents informed immediately. An initial offence would be treated as an opportunity for education, however subsequent offences will lead to further action.

Staff

The States of Jersey has a no-smoking policy for all its premises, therefore smoking is not allowed on the premises. In addition to this reason we do not allow smoking or vaping on the school premises because we do not want to present smoking as acceptable, nor do we wish to present adult smokers as role models. Staff, and any other adults (including children's parents) accompanying children on educational visits are also not permitted to smoke or vape to ensure that smoking/vaping is not presented as acceptable outside school premises. If any member of staff wishes to smoke/vape, they must leave the school site. A breach of this policy will be seen as a variance from acceptable standards of behaviour and will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

Hirings

When the school is hired out for a private or a fundraising function it is on the strict understanding that smoking is not allowed on the school premises.

Implementation

Every member of teaching and non-teaching staff will be asked to read this policy. Pupils will be made aware that smoking is not permitted on school premises and that it is a danger to health through specific PSHE lessons, health-related science lessons and others areas of the curriculum where such discussion is relevant. Staff will also react in accordance with the school policy when engaged in discussions about smoking with individual children. Visitors to the school will be made aware of the policy upon initial arrival.

All new staff, children and parents will be made aware of this policy upon initial arrival to the school, ideally when visiting the school prior to becoming a member of the school. It will be the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that this occurs formally.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the Headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. The PSHE coordinator will review smoking education within the school on a regular basis and will adapt the curriculum as and when the need arrives. The views of students and teachers who deliver the programme are used to make changes and improvements to the programme on an ongoing basis.