

# QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL

## Smoke Free Policy

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### Introduction

Queen Elizabeth High School recognises that smoking has an adverse effect on the health of staff and students and realises the benefits of enforcing a smoke free policy. In line with Northumberland County Council recommendations this policy applies to **everyone** who is on site at Queen Elizabeth High School.

It is a recognised fact that a smoke free policy is of benefit to the health of staff and students alike. The school actively promotes health-related policies and includes health-related education as part of our PSHE curriculum/science curriculum. Queen Elizabeth High School is a smoke free school and new staff and visitors are made aware of the policy through clearly displayed signs and through the school website. The site manager or his team/support staff make contractors arriving on site aware of the policy.

### Rationale

Queen Elizabeth High School actively promotes the development of young people's self esteem through its curriculum, including the PSHE curriculum so that they are equipped with the necessary skills to make informed choices. Queen Elizabeth High School recognises the role that it has to play in being a health-promoting establishment and it is important to provide health education so that students can discuss with peers and adults various choices and their consequences. This in turn will lead them on to make informed choices about their actions and to have the knowledge to recognise the consequences of such actions.

### Data Supporting Rationale

All medical evidence points to smoking not only being dangerous to those who smoke but also to those in the proximity of someone smoking. Passive smoking – breathing other people's smoke – has now been shown to cause lung cancer in non-smokers, as well as many other illnesses.

Section 2(2) (e) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the 2006 Health Act ([http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/pdf/ukpga\\_20060028\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/pdf/ukpga_20060028_en.pdf)) place a duty on employers to provide a working environment for employees that is:

“safe, without risks to health, and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work.”

As passive smoking has now been shown to be linked to the chance of lung cancer in non-smokers there is a risk to the welfare of employees and students at Queen Elizabeth High School if we allow a smoking environment. This policy has therefore been developed in order to address the risks associated with such an environment.

The Queen Elizabeth High School Smoke Free Policy goes beyond the Health Act 2006 legislation, which came into effect on the 1 July 2007, by making not only all buildings smoke free, but by making the whole school site smoke free. Signage on all entrances and exits of all school buildings are in line with the Health Act 2006 legislation.

### Aims

The aim of this policy is to make all people aware that Queen Elizabeth High School operates a smoke free policy that is for the benefit of all staff and students. This policy is to inform everyone that smoking is not permitted inside the school buildings or anywhere on the school site by any person, at any time. This policy also applies to staff, students, visitors and contractors. The policy also applies to all staff, students and volunteers on educational visits.

The only exceptions to this policy are the site managers' houses and gardens which lie within the school boundary.

## Objectives

- To provide a smoke-free environment in which no smoking is permitted either in the buildings or school grounds of Queen Elizabeth High School.
- To provide positive measures to encourage young people/adults to stop or reduce the level of smoking including the provision of information, advice and support. This is provided via the Young People's Health Project for students where regular drop-in sessions operate. Students can also gain information, advice and guidance from their learning mentors who can also signpost to further help. Staff have access to information from school as well as support from Local Authority services (Northumberland Stop Smoking Service, Telephone 01670 813135).
- To promote anti-smoking messages within the school curriculum e.g. via the science curriculum, the PSHE curriculum and awareness raising assemblies.

## Implementation

The policy is made available to all members of staff, parents and visitors to raise awareness of the smoke free environment (via the school website). Queen Elizabeth High School recognises the health benefits to all young people and adults alike and it is acknowledged that it must be made clear to everyone that smoking is prohibited inside the school buildings and on the school site.

The Headteacher (Head of School or Senior Deputy Headteacher in his absence) is responsible for the policy implementation. Signs in and around the building inform people about the policy and new staff are made aware of the policy when taking up post. New parents are informed of the smoke free policy through the school website as well as by signs around school which also serve the purpose of informing all visitors of the policy.

## Monitoring of Smoking on the Premises

To ensure the policy is implemented various measures have been put in place

- There are **no** areas designated as smoking areas within school.
- There are smoke detectors in the main student toilets.
- Surveillance cameras operate in certain areas.
- Staff duty teams are located in areas where there are risks of young people smoking.
- Parents are always informed if students are found smoking on the school premises and detentions are issued. Tobacco, cigarettes, lighters, matches may be confiscated if it is suspected students have such items. Parents will be asked to collect such items from school or request disposal.
- No Smoking Day activities are organised to encourage smokers to give up with sign posting to support and to raise awareness generally regarding the risks of smoking/passive smoking.

## Breaches of Policy

### Students found smoking on the school site/in buildings

Students are in breach of the policy if they are found smoking or there are reasonable grounds for suspecting smoking. The following guidelines should be followed by staff if students are found to be smoking anywhere on the school site.

- Learning and Guidance Co-ordinators are to be informed in writing via email.
- Warn the students of the dangers to themselves and the others around them.
- Remind students that smoking is prohibited anywhere on the school site.
- Parents are contacted by Learning and Guidance Co-ordinator (letter or phone call).
- Students are placed in detention at lunchtime.
- If there is a persistent problem then the student can be expected to do an after school detention or to be secluded in Turning Point.
- If the problem continues parents will be invited in to discuss the concern and future sanctions which may include exclusion for persistent refusal to co-operate regarding this health issue.

### Students found smoking on educational visits

- Warn the students of the dangers to themselves and the others around them.
- Learning and Guidance Co-ordinators to be informed in writing via email on their return to school.
- Parents are contacted by the Learning and Guidance Co-ordinator.
- Students are placed in year group detention for an hour.
- If there is a persistent problem then the student can be expected to be secluded in Turning Point and parents will be invited in to discuss the concern and future sanctions which may include exclusion for persistent refusal to co-operate regarding this health issue.

Also note that smoking by staff or parents accompanying any visit is not permitted.

The following guidelines should be followed by staff if they come across adults smoking on site.

### Staff

Remind staff that this is a smoke free site and ask them to stop.  
Report to and seek support from senior staff if necessary.

### Parents

Remind parents that this is a smoke free site and ask them to stop.  
If they persist ask them to leave the premises. Seek support from senior staff if necessary.

### Contractors

Remind contractors that this is a smoke free site and ask them to stop.  
If they persist report it to the site manager or a senior member of staff who will inform the respective company.

### Monitoring

Monitoring of breaches of the policy by students will be done via SERCO reports and any patterns identified.

The policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

It should be noted that support to stop smoking is available on the school site via the Young People's Health Project. Students will be actively encouraged to articulate any wish they have to stop smoking. Regular drop-in sessions are open to students and the learning mentors are also available to provide support. Any sanctions for smoking will always be coupled with offers of support and further advice on smoking issues.

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| <b>Northumberland Stop Smoking Service</b> | <b>01670 813135</b>   |
| <b>NHS Smoking Helpline</b>                | <b>0800 169 0 169</b> |
| <b>ASH (Action on Smoking)</b>             | <b>020740 40242</b>   |

This policy was reviewed and agreed by the Education Committee at their meeting on Tuesday 29 January 2013

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| Signed       |          | Chair of Education Committee:<br>Linsley Charlton | Date |  |
| Signed       |          | Federation Headteacher<br>Neil Morrison           | Date |  |
| Review Date: | May 2015 |   |      |  |