



Athersley North  
Primary School

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# Smokefree School Policy

<b>Approved by:</b>	Elizabeth Iles
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# Athersley North Primary School

## Smokefree School Policy

Athersley North Primary School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for pupils, staff, parents, and visitors.

We recognise that pupils, staff, parents, and visitors have the right to breathe smokefree air in and around the school. We acknowledge that exposure to second-hand smoke, also known as passive smoking, increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. We know that smoking is a habit of childhood and that is why we are committed to creating a smokefree environment and developing pupil's knowledge, attitudes and skills in positive decision making around smoking.

### AIMS

- Protect the right of pupils, staff, parents, and visitors to not be exposed to second-hand smoke.
- Improve the health of pupils, teachers, and support staff.
- Making smoking invisible to help reduce the likelihood of children and young people from ever starting.
- Educate young people on the dangers of smoking.
- Provide encouragement and support to smokers who wish to stop.
- Reduce smoking litter around the school.
- Be a healthy role model within the local community.

### OBJECTIVES

- We will provide a smokefree school environment.
- We will ensure that tobacco education is part of the school's curriculum.
- We will adopt and support interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking amongst pupils, staff, parents/guardians, and members of the wider school community.
- We will promote the Breath 2025 campaign and Yorkshire Smokefree Service

### RATIONALE

All members of the school community have the right to work and learn in a smokefree environment. Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death and illness in Barnsley, killing half of all its users.

Evidence tells us that children are less likely to start smoking if they do not view the activity as a normal part of everyday life. As smoking becomes less visible and less socially acceptable it should reduce smoking uptake by young or new smokers.

Exposure to second-hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Over 11,000 people die every year in the UK due to second-hand smoke.

**Barnsley has one of the highest smoking rates in the country.**

Those who start smoking before the age of 16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke compared to those who begin in later life, they are more likely to be heavier smokers.

## **PROVIDING A SMOKEFREE ENVIRONMENT (PROCEDURE)**

This policy applies to pupils, staff, parents/carers, members of the public, contractors or others working/using the school premises and all vehicles used to transport pupils.

**Smoking is not permitted in any part of the school's premises and grounds including:**

- **The entrance areas to the school (the school gates).**
- **On land adjacent to the school building (e.g., car parks, garden areas, walkways, playgrounds, playing fields etc).**
- **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.

Staff and visitors who smoke will need to do so outside of the school premises. There are no designated smoking areas provided within the school buildings or grounds. Staff should also remove any badges/uniform that makes them identifiable to the school when they smoke.

The 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.

Suitable posters, displays and signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smokefree environment.

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. 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 (PROCEDURE)**

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 (even if it is off the school grounds).

The school supports tobacco education; parents/carers are encouraged and supported to be actively involved in their child's tobacco education through home/school activities etc.

## **E-CIGARETTES (VAPING)**

Vaping can be an effective harm reduction measure for smokers who cannot or do not want to stop nicotine. The latest evidence published by Public Health England (PHE, 2018) estimate that vaping is around 95% safer for users than smoking.

Having said this, we are including e-cigarettes (vaping) within our voluntary ban. The reason for this is that the purpose of the smokefree areas is to make smoking invisible to children and some young children cannot tell the difference between smoking and vaping.

The Smokefree Barnsley Tobacco Alliance, in line with current evidence from PHE, advise all smokers to stop completely and immediately and to access support via the Yorkshire Smokefree Barnsley Service and utilise a combination of behavioural support and stop smoking medication such as

Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) or Champix. Smokers are four times more likely to be successful in quitting if they access this type of support.

## THE LAW

Although our smoking ban around the school gates is voluntary, by law smoking is banned in all indoor public places including schools. This ban has been in place for over 10 years now, and research suggests this ban has encouraged existing smokers to give up and has also raised awareness about the risks of second-hand smoke, resulting in fewer young people taking up smoking.

**Smoking is now also banned in cars that carry children under 18. Both the smoker and the driver could face a £50 fixed penalty notice. This is to protect children from second hand smoke. In Barnsley, this law is enforced particularly around schools.**

For more information visit: [www.gov.uk/government/news/smoking-in-vehicles](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/smoking-in-vehicles)

## RESPONDING TO SMOKING RELATED INCIDENTS

The following procedures will apply when there is non-compliance with the smokefree policy:

**Staff:** The Schools Disciplinary Procedure will be followed for members of staff who do not comply with the school's smokefree policy. The staff member will be offered support to help them quit smoking.

**Non-staff members/school visitors:** Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the policy. Smokers will be provided with the following details on where to seek support in quitting:

Yorkshire Smokefree, who offer a free and confidential service in Barnsley.

Visit <http://yorkshiresmokefree.nhs.uk/> or phone 0800 612 0011 (free from landlines) or 0330 6601 166 (free from mobiles).

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The policy will be reviewed and developed in consultation with the whole school community. It will be widely publicised (parents/carers, staff induction, staff appointment contracts, handbook, website, notice boards, prospectus) and will be included in contracts for those hiring the use of the school premises.

The Head Teacher will monitor the policy to ensure compliance and its successful implementation.

The policy will be reviewed annually and ratified by the Governing Body.