



Smoke Free Policy

Rationale

Sir Thomas Fremantle School acknowledges that second-hand smoke is both a public and work place health hazard and has therefore adopted a Smoke Free Policy.

Sir Thomas Fremantle School are committed to the aims of the 'Healthy Schools' Programme.

Smoking is a major cause of heart and lung disease and many deaths are brought about because of smoking-related illnesses. The health of the smoker is not only at risk, but also the health of those around him/her because of the effects of 'passive smoking'. The school's policy is to ensure a smoke-free environment for staff, pupils, students and visitors. We believe that schools have a major role to play in all aspects of personal health education and risk prevention.

Aims of the policy

- To guarantee a healthy environment and protect the current and future health of students, employees and visitors.
- To guarantee the right of non-smokers to breathe in air free from tobacco smoke.
- To comply with Health and Safety Legislation and Employment Law
- To raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke
- To take account of the needs of those who smoke and to support those who wish to stop.
- To recognise that there may be a link between smoking tobacco and cannabis and to break this link.

Site restrictions

Smoking is not permitted on any part of the school premises, including the car park, gardens or walkways, where this forms part of the school's premises.

The policy applies to all pupils, staff and visitors including contractors and others working on the school site or using the schools premises, facilities or vehicles. This policy will be clearly advertised and visitors to the school will be advised of it.

The policy also applies to groups or individuals renting or otherwise using the school facilities out of hours. The site team will make all such groups aware of this.

The policy will apply to all activities held in the school, including before and after school sessions and any meetings organised, which are attended by school employees as part of their work, and/or visitors to such meetings/events.

Where members of staff accompany students on activities off the school premises, the no smoking policy will operate at all times whilst they are in contact with students.

All employees should avoid being seen smoking in public in sight of pupils, parents and visitors in order to reinforce a whole-school approach.

Staff are asked to refrain from smoking at the front of school either before, during, or at the end of the school day.

Vehicles

Smoking is not permitted in any school-owned vehicle. Employees are asked to refrain from smoking in their own vehicle whilst on school duty or when used on school business and when carrying passengers.

Procedures

Staff are encouraged to set a positive example at all times.

Students will be educated about the dangers of smoking via the PSHE programme. Appropriate literature will be displayed to support non-smoking campaigns and can be accessed via Heads of Years and the Connexions Drop-In Service.

Smoking by students is not permitted:

- i) On school premises
- ii) On the journey immediately to and from school
 - i. Where smoking occurs on Local authority school transport it will be referred to the local authority transport section who will normally impose a permanent ban from school transport.*
- iii) On school trips and visits

iv) Whilst in school uniform

Disciplinary action

The enforcement of the smoke free policy will be the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team. The school's disciplinary procedure will apply when dealing with breaches to the Smoke Free Policy. Anyone raising genuine concerns about breaches of the policy will be protected from victimisation.

Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to leave the premises.

Non-compliance by students will normally be dealt with through fixed term exclusion. This may include the use of lunchtime exclusion which, for statistical purposes, will count as a half-day exclusion.

In the case of students who are identified as being within a group where smoking is occurring but not directly seen as smoking themselves (passive smokers), there will be an initial formal warning. Parents will be advised of this formal warning by letter. On any subsequent occasion of passive smoking, they will also be dealt with by way of fixed term exclusion. This may include lunchtime exclusion.

In addition to this action, the school may wish to arrange a meeting with a relevant health professional to agree strategies to assist the student to stop smoking. We will also make available resources and contact information for organisations that support teenagers wishing to give up smoking. In such cases, parents will be informed.

Where students are identified as persistent offenders, the school may require evidence that they have been referred to a formal 'stop smoking' programme as part of the re-admission process.

Appointments

All appointments procedures, staff handbooks and the school prospectus should clearly state that the school is smoke free.

Education and publicity

Suitable posters and No Smoking signs will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message, which supports a smoke free working environment.

NHS Smoking Help line 0800 169 0169

This offers friendly, free help and support.

