

Brize Norton Primary School

NON-SMOKING POLICY

Introduction

At Brize Norton Primary School we believe that smoking is harmful to health, and so we strongly discourage our children from smoking. On 2 April 2007 the law on smoking changed making public places and workplaces smoke-free. Consequently this school, as a place of work, is a non-smoking establishment.

Rationale

Research shows that almost a quarter of young people are regular smokers by the age of 15. Almost all adult smokers took up the habit when they were children. Smoking is regarded by the medical profession as a major cause of many illnesses. 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 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 choice regarding 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.

Organisation

We teach children about the dangers of smoking as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHCE) programme in upper Key Stage 2. 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. S/he 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 18 (October 2007), our aim is to help the children make their own decisions 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 at Key Stage 2, when children learn about the ways substances affect the body e.g. when we teach them about how medicines can help our body. When such an issue arises, the class teacher deals with it in context, and answers the children's questions to the best of his/her ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided. Parents may view any of the smoking-related teaching materials that we use and we will make these materials available.

Staff

We do not allow smoking on the school premises. If any member of staff wishes to smoke s/he must leave the school site.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of all staff to implement this policy. It is the role of the headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. The governors review this policy as part of the curriculum committee's monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's PSHCE programme.

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