

Aberdare Community School Ysgol Gymunedol Aberdâr



Smoke Free Policy

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| Date Adopted | 27 th September 2023 |
| Signature of Headteacher | <i>Carol Morgan</i> |
| Signature of Chair of Governors | <i>Mama</i> |
| Date to be reviewed | September 2025 |



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Aberdare Community School

Smoke Free Policy

General Points

This policy has been developed to protect all employees, service users, customers and visitors from exposure to second-hand smoke and to assist compliance with the smoke-free provisions of the Health Act 2006 and the related regulations for Wales which came into force in April 2007.

In addition, Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 and the Smoke-Free Premises and Vehicles (Wales) Regulations 2020. The Minister for Health and Social Services issued a Written Statement on 29 September 2020 regarding his decision to implement new smoke-free requirements on 1 March 2021.

The new smoke-free requirements that will be brought into force on 1 March 2021 will affect a number of settings. The Welsh Government has published guidance to support understanding and implementation of the legislation, this guidance is available here: <https://gov.wales/smoke-free-legislation-wales.html>

The guidance sets out what the changes in the law mean for schools and what those responsible for schools need to do. Broadly, the requirements are that:

- school grounds in Wales will be required to be smoke-free.
- it will be an offence to smoke in school grounds. Smoking in a smoke-free space from the 1st March 2021 could result in a £100 fine.

Exposure to second-hand smoke, also known as passive smoking, increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Ventilation or separating



smokers and non-smokers within the same airspace does not stop potentially dangerous exposure.

It is the policy of:

Aberdare Community School

That all our workplaces are smoke-free and all employees have a right to work in a smoke-free environment.

With effect from 2 April 2007 smoking is prohibited throughout the workplace and grounds, with no exceptions. The policy applies to all employees, pupils and visitors.

Implementation

- Overall responsibility for policy implementation and review rests with the Headteacher.
- All Staff are obliged to adhere to and to facilitate the implementation of the Policy.

The headteacher will ensure that all existing employees, consultants and contractors are aware of the Policy and their role in the implementation and monitoring of the Policy. They will also ensure that all new personnel have access to a copy during induction.

Appropriate “No Smoking” signs will be clearly displayed at or near the entrances to the premises.



External

In order to portray a professional image of our school to visitors and guests, smoking is prohibited in all entrances to school premises and on all external school property. This policy extends to all visitors to our premises. Whilst signs are placed at entrances to our buildings, we would ask Staff to politely remind their visitors, if necessary. In compliance with the new smoke-free legislation guidance, warning signs have been placed on all external entrances to the school.





Non-compliance

Following its introduction, employees found to be in breach of the policy will be subject to disciplinary action which could result in dismissal.

Help in stopping smoking

The following sources of support are available for smokers who want to stop:

Smokers Helpline Wales 0800 169 0 169

Provides advice and self-help materials.

All Wales Smoking Cessation Service 0800 085 2219

Free local service providing cessation support and counselling.

ASH – Action on Smoking and Health

Smoking and mental health

Evidence shows that smokers who quit for 6 weeks or more are happier than those who carry on smoking. Reductions in anxiety and depression in those who quit smoking are found to be at least as great as from taking anti-depressants.

www.smokingbanwales.co.uk