

SMOKING POLICY

1. Smoking by pupils has never been allowed at St Christopher School. Smoking (or the possession of smoking materials) by pupils is not allowed either in School, in the local environs or in any other place where that pupil could be linked to or associated with the School.

A pupil is in breach of the smoking rules if any of the following apply:

- Being seen with a cigarette
- Being seen to discard a cigarette
- Possession of a tobacco product in clothing or in a bag etc.
- Smelling of cigarette smoke

The pupil does not have to be approached by the reporting member of staff e.g. the member of staff may see them from a passing car.

2. Factors influencing this policy have included: the risk to the health of the smoker and others; the danger of starting a fire; the creation of damage, smell, mess and inconvenience to others; effect on the reputation of the school; and the wasteful expenditure involved.
3. The School particularly recognises the significant health risks that the smoking of cigarettes (or similar materials) poses. The School disapproves of smoking in any context or environment and takes very seriously its duty to educate and protect the children and adults of the School community from the effects of smoking.
4. We invite parents, carers and guardians to play their part in discouraging young people from smoking. There is particular concern to prevent younger pupils smoking. Pupils below the Sixth Form may be asked to empty their pockets or bags when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that they have smoking materials.
5. The procedures we are currently using to discourage smoking are as follows:
 - a. EDUCATION - especially in the Junior School and within the PSHE and Science programmes of the Senior School about the effects of smoking.
 - b. AWARENESS RAISING - using posters and other media.
 - c. COUNSELLING/CESSATION SUPPORT - from the School nurse (or other staff with the appropriate skills) for those wishing to give up smoking.
 - d. SANCTIONS - as described in the following section

Disciplinary Sanctions

The consequences for a pupil of the School contravening the smoking rules will be as follows:

A. In a building whilst at School or on a School trip:

1. Any pupil found to be smoking in a building will be automatically suspended.

B. Other occasions:

2. **First occasion:** a letter home to inform parents; a compulsory contribution of £10 to cancer relief charities; referral to the School nurse (or similar agency) for help with cessation. The letter will state that further sanctions will be imposed if the pupil were to be caught again.
3. **Second occasion:** a further letter home; a compulsory contribution of £20 to cancer relief charities; referral to the School nurse (or similar agency) for further help with smoking education and cessation. The second letter will state that if the pupil were to be caught again a likely sanction will be formal suspension from the School.
4. **Third occasion:** The pupil is likely to be suspended for two days. On their return they (accompanied by at least one of their parents) will be seen by the Head and the Director of Pastoral System so that a programme of support can be agreed and the potential consequences of a further smoking incident can be discussed.

NB: The School's response to a pupil breaking the smoking rules on a subsequent occasion will depend on the period of time that has elapsed since the previous instance.

A pupil's place at the School will be put at risk by their continued involvement with smoking.

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