

Thomas More Catholic School



SMOKE FREE SCHOOL POLICY

Mission Statement

To Care for, respect and value all people and our environment.

To Learn that justice and love are the foundations of our Faith.
To make these the guiding principles of our community in its commitment to academic excellence and personal integrity.

To Achieve beyond our highest expectations, creating challenging opportunities, which take us all confidently through the 21st Century.

This policy has been adopted by the Governing Body of Thomas More Catholic School, and is subject to an annual review.

Date Reviewed	11th November 2015
Review Confirmed by	Chair, Resources Committee
Next Review Due	Autumn Term 2016

Aim To create a Smoke free School.

Objectives

The objectives of the policy are:

- To provide a smoke free school environment for everyone,
- To provide young people with consistent message regarding tobacco, drug use and appropriate role models.

Rationale

- Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in the UK.
- Second Hand Smoke – ‘breathing other people’s tobacco smoke’ causes at least 1,000 people to die a year. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, heart disease and cause the onset of asthma, chest and ear infections and cot death in children. It also leads to over 50 children being admitted to hospital per day. 80% of smokers take up the habit as teenagers with 450 children start smoking every day. (ASH)
- The Governments White Paper ‘Choosing Health - making healthy choices,’ identifies plans to place restrictions on smoking within the workplace.
- Under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) TMCS has a duty of care to provide a healthy work environment.
- Everyone has the right to a smoke free environment.
- Schools have a major role to play in Health Education and prevention.
- Young people need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models within the school. It has been shown that the biggest factor affecting youth smoking is prevalence of adult smoking and young people’s exposure to seeing smoking. (ASH, 2004)

Restrictions on smoking within the workplace

Smoking is NOT permitted in any part of the TMCS’s premises, including kitchens, within the entrance area to the school or on land adjacent to the school building (car park, garden areas, playing fields, walkway etc) where this forms part of the school premises.

The enforcement of this **total smoking ban** is the responsibility of all designated responsible persons within the school.

The school's Disciplinary Procedure will apply for dealing with employees who breach the smoking ban at work. Employees who raise genuine concerns about breaches of this policy will be protected from victimisation.

This policy applies to employees, parents, visitors, members of the public, contractors and others working or using the schools premises or vehicles. This policy will be clearly advertised and visitors to the school will be informed of it.

Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to refrain from smoking or leave the premises.

The 'No smoking' policy will apply to all activities held in the school including before and after school sessions and any organised meetings which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meeting/events.

Employees should avoid being seen smoking in public in sight of students, parents and visitors in order to reinforce a comprehensive approach.

Non-compliance by students will be dealt with in accordance with TMCS Disciplinary Procedure.

E-Cigarettes

Although they fall outside the scope of smoke-free legislation, the school prohibits the use of e-cigarettes in the workplace and the same restrictions on smoking will also apply to e cigarettes.

The school's rationale for a ban on e-cigarettes is that:

- although they do not produce smoke, e-cigarettes produce a vapour that could provide an annoyance or health risk to other workers;
- some e-cigarette models can, particularly from a distance, look like real cigarettes, making a smoking ban difficult to police, and creating an impression for children / visitors / other workers that it is acceptable to smoke.

Designated smoking areas

There are NO designated smoking areas provided within the school premises. This policy is in line with the National Healthy Schools Programme.

Facilities for Smokers

No facilities for smoking in the workplace are provided although support will be given to smokers to assist them to stop smoking

Vehicles

The smoking ban applies to all school owned / hired / leased vehicles. No-one will be allowed to smoke inside any school owned / hired / leased vehicles.

Employees must refrain from smoking in their own vehicles, when used on school business and when carrying passengers.

Legally Required Signage

All smokefree premises and vehicles will display no smoking signs that meet the requirements of the 2007 public smoking ban. TMCS signs make it clear that premises and vehicles are smokefree and demonstrate that the school is taking the necessary steps to meet the requirements of the law.

No smoking signs are displayed in a prominent position at every entrance to TMCS premises. Signs meet the following minimum requirements:

- a minimum of A5 in area (210mm x 148mm)
- display the international no smoking *symbol at least 70mm in diameter
- carry the following words in characters that can be easily read: **'No smoking. It is against the law to smoke in these premises'**

Smoke free vehicles such as TMCS minibus displays a 'no smoking' sign in each compartment of the vehicle in which people can be carried.

***The international no smoking symbol consists solely of a graphic representation of a single burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle of at**

least 70mm in diameter with a red bar across it.



Help with smoking cessation

TMCS will support employees in school wishing to give up smoking by advertising and promoting external smoking cessation services and through both regular health promotion activities and specialist advice regarding health promotion activity, including Croydon Stop Smoking Service **0800 019 8570**. Resources will also be sourced to educate students.

TMCS supports other members of the school's community eg parents wishing to give up smoking by advertising and promoting external smoking cessation services.

Where practicable, requests from employees to attend smoking cessation programmes during working hours will be supported in line with Croydon Council Policy.

https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/downloads/General_Stop_Smoking_Leaflet%202015.pdf

Education and Publicity

Suitable posters and leaflets are displayed in the school to create a positive visual message which supports a Smoke free lifestyle. The dangers of tobacco are addressed comprehensively in TMCS's drugs, alcohol, and tobacco education programme (see the school PSHE policy for details) in line with DFE and Healthy Schools guidance and in support of Every Child Matters outcomes, especially 'Being Healthy'.

New Buildings

This policy applies equally to all future premises at the design stage of any new building, and refurbishment or relocation project.

Appointments

TMCS is a 'No Smoking school' and this is made clear within all of our appointments procedures, staff handbooks and school prospectus.

Links

- **Health and Safety**

The above policy on smoking at work forms part of TMCS's Health and Safety Policy arrangements.

- **Healthy Schools**

The policy was developed in line with recommended good practice from the Croydon Healthy Schools Programme.

- **Council Policy**

This Smoking Policy is in line with Croydon Council's smoke-free policy (see above).

For further information

If you require any further information, require a copy of the policy or have any comments about the Smoking Policy contact the Healthy Schools Coordinator at TMCS