

# *Ysgol Hendrefelin and Residence Unit*



## **Anti-Smoking Policy**

<b>Policy Review</b>		<b>Signature</b>	<b>Signature</b>
Date approved by Governors	16/07/2024	(Chair of Governors)	(Headteacher)
Date Reviewed		(Chair of Governors)	(Headteacher)
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Why do we need a no-smoking policy?

At Ysgol Hendrefelin School we value the health and welfare of all within our community. Research shows that almost a quarter of all young people are regular smokers by the age of 15. Almost all adult smokers took up the habit when they were children. It is estimated that 450 children a day take up the habit. The medical profession regard smoking as the major cause of many illnesses. It is estimated that approximately 114,000 smokers a year die in the UK because of their smoking habit. People can be harmed by second- hand smoke, i.e. by inhaling smoke from other people's cigarettes.

Ysgol Hendrefelin acknowledges that smoking and breathing other people's tobacco smoke is both a public health hazard and a health issue and therefore has decided to establish and develop a No Smoking Policy.

Welsh Government Law Change regarding smoke-free spaces

From 1st March 2021, all school grounds in Wales became smoke-free spaces.

Wales becomes the first country in the UK to extend its smoking ban to certain outdoor areas. Smoking in smoke-free spaces – which not only includes school grounds but also public playgrounds, outdoor day-care and child-minding settings as well as hospital grounds – from 1st March 2021 could result in a £100 fine.

As a school we acknowledge the important role we play in protecting everyone from harmful second-hand smoke and we especially recognise the important role that adults have in influencing the attitudes and smoking behaviour of children and young people. Banning smoking in places where children and young people spend their time will de-normalise smoking and reduce the chances of children and young people to start smoking in the first place– ultimately saving lives.

Please be assured we deal swiftly and appropriately when, on the exceedingly rare occasions that pupils have brought cigarettes/lighters into school in the past. We view such actions as a profoundly serious violation of the school code of conduct, we are therefore pleased to learn that the Welsh Government has reinforced this view in a legal sense.

Please open the link for more information: <https://gov.wales/smoke-free-lawguidance-changesmarch-2021-html>

This Policy aims to:-

- Provide an environment where good health is promoted for all.
- Highlight to all who use this school site that it is a 'smoke free' environment
- Enable the school to tackle smoking-related issues.
- Raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke and reinforce the school's health education programme.
- Satisfy Section 2 (2)(e) of the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974, which places a duty on employers to provide a working environment for employees that is 'safe, without risks to health, and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work.'
- Take account of the needs of those who are addicted to smoking and to offer an avenue of support for those who wish to stop.

### **School environment**

- The Ysgol Hendrefelin sites are entirely smoke free environments which includes the use of electronic cigarettes/vapes. Smoking is not permitted on the school grounds or in the school buildings including toilets, corridors, staff rooms, car parks and playing fields.
- This policy applies to staff, pupils, parents, visitors and contractors when they are on the school site.
- Signs will be put up to remind all visitors of the school's smoke free policy.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school grounds or buildings at any time. This includes school events held outside normal school hours.
- Organisations and clubs who use the school premises outside of school hours are expected to adhere to the school's No Smoking Policy.
- Teachers, parent helpers and staff are expected to refrain from smoking on all school trips.
- The school will liaise with Trading Standards re: encouraging pupils to apply for a proof of age card.
- Shops surrounding the school site should be reminded not to sell cigarettes to pupils in uniform. Any concerns with local premises should be reported to Trading Standards Service on 01639 763333.

## **Securing Compliance**

### **Staff**

- The teaching staff and governors of Ysgol Hendrefelin must have a clear and detailed understanding of the damage that cigarette smoking and second hand smoke does to health and are also aware of the nature of tobacco addiction.
- Staff and Unit Leads, will ensure smoking-related topics are adequately incorporated into class teaching for each Key Stage.
- Where possible, staff should link up with the wider community and are encouraged to use the knowledge and materials of outside agencies.
- Activities around smoking in schools should compliment a community-wide programme of action. Messages should be consistent with and support each other.
- Staff are not permitted to smoke anywhere on the school site.
- Staff will not smoke in front of pupils during educational visits.
- All staff will be provided with a copy of this policy and new staff will be alerted to the existence of the smoke free environment at interview.
- Breaches of this policy will be subject to the normal disciplinary procedures.

### **Pupils**

- Pupils at Ysgol Hendrefelin are not allowed to smoke/vape at school or whilst engaged in any off-site activity.
- Pupils are not allowed to smoke/vape near the school site.
- Pupils should not smoke/vape whilst travelling to or from school.

Ysgol Hendrefelin recognises a duty of care to those pupils who smoke and are committed to assisting them to break the habit. Help is provided and will continue to be provided to those pupils who want advice on how to stop smoking.

If a pupil is caught smoking or vaping the following series of actions will be taken:-

1. The pupils will be told to stop smoking and an incident report completed. This will also be reported to parents.

2. Pupils caught violating school smoking rules may be subject to closer supervision, particularly if there is a repetition of refusal to comply with the schools smoking policy.

3. Continued repetition of the refusal to comply with the school smoking policy will receive consequences in line with the school behaviour policy.

4. If pupils smoke in the building or continue to smoke after staff have asked them to stop then this is likely to result in a phone call home and an exclusion. If it takes place in the residential sector of school then pupils will be taken home and they are likely to lose their place in residences for health and safety reasons.

### **Parents and Adult Helpers**

- Parents/carers will be reminded annually that the school site of Ysgol Hendrefelin is a smoke free environment.
- Parent/carers are not permitted to smoke anywhere on the school grounds.
- Parents/carers will be discouraged from smoking at entrances and exits to the school site whilst collecting their child.
- Parents/carers will be asked to refrain from smoking when assisting on any school trips/events.

### **Contractors, Visitors and Other Users of the School Site**

- All contractors, visitors and users of the school site of Ysgol Hendrefelin must be informed of the school's No Smoking Policy on signing in at reception and are not permitted to smoke anywhere on the school site.
- Adequate signage will act as a reminder.
- Contractors, visitors and users of the school site should be discouraged from smoking at exits and entrances to the school grounds, especially in view of pupils.
- Breaches of the school's No Smoking Policy by contractors should be reported to the relevant company via the Head Teacher.

### **Education**

Ysgol Hendrefelin School educates pupils about the consequences and dangers of smoking. This takes place through a range of lessons across the curriculum where issues of peer pressure and smoking are also considered by pupils. The issues surrounding the use of drugs and substance misuse are further reinforced and embedded in the subsequent Year Groups, building upon the understanding gained

with reference to other drugs for example, alcohol. In this way smoking is referred back to and the issues around health and risk factors associated with this drug are reinforced throughout pupils' school careers. Pupils are taught about the dangers involved with tobacco/vaping and other drugs. They learn what tobacco contains and the problems and risks associated with smoking. They also consider attitudes towards smoking and peer pressure.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

- This policy has been devised in full consultation with pupils, staff, health professionals and governors.
- The governors and leadership team will ensure that all staff take responsibility for implementing and regularly monitoring pupils, staff and other adults using the school site to ensure compliance. Overall responsibility for this policy ultimately rests with the Head Teacher.
- The school acknowledges that smoking is an addiction and will ensure that adequate support will be made available to those who want to quit through the intervention of appropriate outside agencies.
- The Governing Body will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.