



Brookside Primary School

Smoke Free Gate Policy

Oxfordshire is aiming to be smoke free by 2025, this means aiming to reduce smoking levels to below 5% of the local adult population. We are working with Oxfordshire County Council to support this. The aim of this initiative is to inspire the County's first smoke-free generation. The County will work with our school to create a smokefree and vape-free environment around the school gates when dropping off or collecting children.

Whilst we know that smoking indoors in public places is not permitted under the 2006 Health Act, smoke-free school gates would take things one step further and would make the school gates and the immediate area around the school a voluntary smokefree zone. It also sends a positive message to our children and communities – that health and wellbeing are a priority.

Evidence tells us that children are less likely to start smoking if they do not view the activity as a normal part of everyday life. Making smoking less visible and less socially acceptable helps reduce smoking uptake by young and new smokers. Home and school environments play an important role in children and young people's behaviour:

- Children and young people who live with parents who smoke are three to four times more likely to become smokers themselves than their peers who do not live with smokers: where smoking is more visible and perceived to be socially normal behaviour, there is a higher likelihood to experiment with tobacco.
- Teachers, parents and other adults have an important role in influencing the attitudes and smoking behaviour of children and young people.
- Among adult smokers, about two-thirds report that they took up smoking before the age of 18 and over 80% before the age of 20

From September 2020 all Primary age children are taught Relationships and Health education. These subjects are designed to equip children with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life.

By the end of primary school pupils should know

- The facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including **smoking**, alcohol and drug – taking.

How:

Brookside Primary School will work with Oxfordshire County Council to create smokefree and vape-free school gates. The school will communicate all proposals with wider stakeholders including parents and carers, pupils, governors and staff.

The smoke free zone has been decided upon by the Brookside School Eco-Club as they are concerned about walking through smoke on the way to school and also breathing in smoke which has blown over from the footpath which runs along the Bucknell Road and around the Sports Centre Car Park.

The Eco-Club have realised the importance of breathing air free from pollution and the smoke free zone as an important way which the air can be made cleaner around school. They have designed signage themselves and asked younger children in EYFS and KS1 to also complete designs. The best designs were shared with Oxfordshire County Council Smokefree Oxon team who have supported the Eco-Club to have them made into signs.

The signs will be placed along the fence on the edge of the school site along the Bucknell Road and in the Sports Centre car park.

NHS Leaflets to encourage parents to cease smoking have been available for some time in the school reception area and have been shared with parents who have voiced a wish to stop smoking. This will be further supported by a member of the Safeguarding Team attending the Oxfordshire County Council training on how to signpost people who smoke to the Local Stop Smoking Service.

The school will use the successes in other counties as well as the success of the smokefree sidelines initiative to support their campaign. At all times the messaging will be positive: it is not about "getting smokers to quit". It is about making our environments – where we live, work and play – a healthy environment for all generations.

The smokefree zone will include the entire length of the footpath which borders the school along the Bucknell Road and the footpath which goes along the outside of the Sports Centre Car Park. The initiative will be in place from 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday

