



SMOKE FREE POLICY

MAGDALENE COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Introduction

Breathing in other people's tobacco smoke, has been shown to cause cancers, heart and respiratory disease in non-smokers.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 places a duty on employers to provide a working environment that is:

E-cigarettes, personal vaporizers (PVs) and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) are battery operated devices that mimic tobacco smoking and are often used as a replacement for cigarettes. They usually produce a vapour, including flavoured aromas, either with or without nicotine.

Electronic cigarettes are currently marketed in the UK under general product safety regulations. It is widely anticipated that in 2016 the MHRA¹ will license products containing nicotine as medicines.

'Safe, without risks to health'

In compliance with the Health Act 2006 and the Smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006, Magdalene College has a smoke free policy. Smoking is not permitted in any part of the buildings of the College at any time. Smoking is permitted in designated areas in College grounds, but not in any of the main College entrances, staircase entrances or in First Court or Second Court. Smoking is not permitted in College vehicles or vehicles being used on College business. Magdalene College acknowledges that second-hand tobacco smoke is both a public and a work place health hazard and has therefore adopted this smoke free policy

Electronic cigarettes fall outside the scope of smoke free legislation as the act of smoking requires a substance to be burnt. The Magdalene College Smoke Free policy extends to electronic cigarettes. For the avoidance of doubt, this extension of the smoke free policy does not include the use of licensed medicinal nicotine inhalers which would not produce vapour or light up in order to resemble cigarettes

Aims of the Policy

The policy seeks to:

- Guarantee a healthy working environment and protect the current and future health of employees, students and visitors
- Guarantee the right of non-smokers to breathe in air free from tobacco smoke
- Comply with Health & Safety Legislation and Employment Law
- Raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke
- Take account of the needs of those who smoke and to support those who wish to stop
- Use separate designated areas
- Encourage referral to the College Nurse for information and advice
- Avoid taking a passive stance on electronic cigarettes which may cause disharmony with smokers
- Support compliance of smoke free legal requirements and voluntary policies through the avoidance of confusion of electronic cigarettes users with actual smokers
- Protect people from vapour from electronic cigarettes which may be annoying to other College users and could cause long term health effects through passive consumption of vapour which are currently unknown

Restrictions on Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in any part of the buildings of the College at any time, by any person, regardless of their status. This includes student rooms and Fellows' Sets. Smoking is only permitted outside College buildings, but not in any of the main College entrances, staircase entrances or in First Court or in Second Court (which for this purpose is taken to mean the area directly to the front of the Pepys Library, enclosed by garden walls and the Hall/Buttery structure). Smoking is permitted in the following designated areas: The grass area at the back of Benson E, Benson Hall Courtyard, area at the side of Brights H facing the Gardeners' Cottage. In Cripps Court the only designated smoking area is the patio immediately behind No 1 Chesterton Road (Cripps Court Courtyard). This area has been chosen as it is furthest away from most of the bedrooms, and so the least likely to cause noise nuisance. Electronic cigarette smoking areas are the Recycling area at the back of Benson K, Fellows' Garden and Edwards Court Courtyard.

Special Arrangements Adjacent to the College Bar

Exceptionally, smoking will be permitted in First Court in the evenings when the College Bar is open. The designated area for this will be adjacent to the drainpipe between C Staircase and the Main Gate, and removable bins of appropriate quality and design will be placed in that area when the bar is open and removed at other times.

Visitors

All visitors, contractors and deliverers are required to abide by the smoke free policy. Staff members are expected to inform visitors of the smoke free policy. However they are not expected to enter into any confrontation which may put their personal safety at risk.

Vehicles

Smoking is not permitted in College vehicles or any vehicles being used on company business. The use of electronic cigarettes in College vehicles or any vehicle being used on College business is prohibited.

Advice on chargers

The Local Government Association, which represents fire brigades in England & Wales, has reported an alarming increase in e-cigarette blazes in the last two years. In an effort to improve e-cigarette safety the government issued a press release which is replicated here and **students are strongly advised to adhere to this advice for their own safety and the safety of others.** Any queries regarding chargers should be forwarded to the College Marshall.

GOV.UK Press Release 17 November 2014: *'Responding to a growing number of incidents caused by faulty e-cigarette chargers, the Department for Communities and Local Government has put forward a number of tips to help consumers stay safe.'*

- *follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer carefully*
- *take notice of any warnings supplied with the product*
- *ensure that e-cigarettes are not left charging for long periods of time*
- *do not leave e-cigarettes plugged in overnight or when you are out of the house*
- *look for the CE mark that indicates chargers comply with European Safety standards*
- *do not overload plug sockets*
- *check that your electrical products have not been recalled*
- *avoid buying counterfeit or substandard goods*
- *switch off appliances at the socket when not in use*

In addition the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has commissioned a number of Trading Standards departments to investigate whether current e-cigarette safety information is sufficient and widely available enough to consumers.

Support for smokers

Members of the College and staff who smoke and request support to quit smoking will be referred to the College Nurse and will be supplied with information and contact details of local NHS Stop Smoking Services (**Cambridge OASIS 01223 723022**) or the National Don't Give Up Giving Up. The free-phone helpline **0800 169 0 169** or www.givingupsmoking.co.uk

Failure to comply with the policy

Students found to be disregarding the Smoke Free Policy will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out in the Discipline section of the College Student Guides. Staff members found to be disregarding the Smoke Free Policy will be dealt with in accordance with the College disciplinary procedures. Failure to comply with this policy may also in some circumstances expose individuals and the College to criminal sanctions.

Monitoring and reviewing

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Health & Safety Committee to ensure it continues to: meet its aims, comply with legislation and remains up to date with evolving best medical practice.

Comments related to the maintenance of this policy should be directed to Health & Safety Officer who is the College Marshal.

This policy was confirmed by the Governing Body at their meeting on 28 June 2007 and revised in February 2015 by the Health & Safety Committee.