

SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS POLICY

Introduction

The RCM has a strict no smoking policy in place across all of its sites. Students and staff are not permitted to smoke or vape in any internal or external space within College buildings (including the 1851 Courtyard, Britten Theatre Courtyard and small yard) or within 20 meters of any entrance or exit (including the main entrance on Prince Consort Road). The College is committed to upholding the highest standards of health and safety and acknowledges the significant health impacts of smoking and secondary smoke. Support to quit smoking is freely available through the NHS.

This policy applies to all students, staff, visitors and contractors, it replaces all previous policies and is applicable to all RCM sites.

Policy aims

- promote the health and wellbeing of RCM staff and students by creating and maintaining a healthy environment for the benefit of all staff, students and visitors;
- raise awareness of support available to those who wish to give up smoking; and
- comply with health and safety legislation.

This policy also facilitates the College's compliance with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974; Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999; the Health Act 2006 and Smokefree regulations which came into effect in 2007 and 2012.

In addition to compliance, it is recognised that exposure to tobacco smoke either by smoking or passive smoking is the largest single preventable cause of death and disease in the UK. In addition, passive smoking can be uncomfortable for other members of the community, particularly those with pre-existing respiratory conditions. Evidence also shows that smoke-free policies are associated with reductions in the prevalence of smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke, and improvement in smoking behaviour (i.e. fewer cigarettes smoked). Implementation of this policy depends critically on the support and example of management at all levels and a clear understanding by all staff and students of their responsibilities to ensure a healthy environment for themselves and others.

The College's Directorate fully supports the implementation of this policy and empowers all staff, professors and RCM security contractors to challenge anyone in breach of the policy, referring them to Directorate for appropriate disciplinary action where necessary.

Policy Statement

1.1 Smoking is not permitted in College buildings, outside of College buildings on-site or within 20 meters of any College building entrance or exit.

1.2 In line with its duty of care to staff and students, the RCM is committed to creating and maintaining a healthy environment.

1.3 The College will comply with all legislative requirements on the control of smoking. The term 'smoking' includes all substances that a person can smoke by whatever method.

1.4 Smoking is not permitted:

1.4.1 Inside any building or substantially enclosed spaces, owned or used by the College for the conduct of College business including the Prince Consort Road and RCM Jay Mews sites.

1.4.2 On College land or within 20m of College land.

2.1 The use of e-cigarettes is not permitted in College buildings

2.2 Whilst e-cigarettes are not regulated through health and tobacco related legislation, the use of e-cigarettes is not permitted in any College buildings.

2.3 The prohibition of using electronic cigarettes wherever smoking is legally prohibited (within buildings) is on the basis that, whilst these products are potentially less harmful than smoking products and potentially useful for those wishing to quit smoking, they also carry other negative effects. The medical evidence of e-cigarettes, particularly in relation to longer term use, is still developing.

3. All staff and student members of the RCM community have the right to ask others to comply with this policy, and not to smoke. The College will not tolerate abuse or threatening behaviour towards anyone asking a student, member of staff or visitor not to smoke.

3.1 All members of College are asked, and particularly those in a management position, to contribute to the enforcement of this policy, by politely asking anyone they see breaching it to desist. If you approach someone who is smoking on campus and they refuse to desist, please inform your line manager who will escalate as appropriate.

4. Responsibility for compliance with this policy rests with all College members.

4.1 Heads of Departments/Faculties are additionally responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff, students and visitors are aware of the College Policy, and taking steps to encourage full compliance.
- Referring students and staff in breach of the policy for disciplinary action
- Asking contractors/visitors to leave College property if they refuse to comply with this policy.

4.2 The Director of Estates Facilities is also responsible for ensuring that appropriate 'No smoking' signs are posted at entrances to all buildings, in external spaces and prominently around all sites.

4.3 The Health and Safety Manager is responsible for ensuring the provision of accurate and up-to-date information to staff and students on the services and support available to those wishing to stop smoking.

5.1 Smoke-free locations

All RCM sites are smoke-free. This means that smoking by staff, students, visitors and contractors will not be permitted on or within 20 metres of College land. Sites include:

- Prince Consort Road site (including the Blomfield Building, South Building, Amaryllis Flemming Concert Hall, Opera School, Britten Theatre and Courtyard Building).
- RCM Jay Mews (including 39 and 41-43 Jay Mews)
- The RCM is committed to act as a responsible and considerate neighbour and remind all staff, students, visitors and contractors that neighbouring institutions such as Imperial College, the Royal Albert Hall, the Royal College of Art all have their own smoke-free zones which must also be respected and complied with.

Support to quit smoking

A wealth of resources is available through the NHS for students and staff who are considering quitting smoking. More information can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/quit-smoking/>

Associated policies and guidance

- [Gov.uk – The Health Act 2006](#)
- [HSE - Advice on smoking at work](#)
- [HSE – Health and Safety at Work Act 1974](#)
- [Westminster Council – Health and safety at work](#)
- [HSE – National Local Authority \(LA\) Enforcement Code](#)

Head of Projects, Facilities & Operations

Anette Ollerearnshaw

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Policy reviewed by

Director of Estates

Aida Berhamovic

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