

ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL, MAYOBRIDGE

SCHOOL SMOKING POLICY

St. Patrick's Primary and Nursery School is committed to the active promotion of a smoke free environment for children, staff, parents and all persons within the school community. Employers are required by the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of their employees and others who use their premises.

Article 4(2) of the Order requires that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the working environment is safe, without risks to health and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for employees. In addition, under Article 8, employees must take reasonable care of their own health, safety and welfare, as well as that of others and must co-operate with their employers' efforts to discharge any statutory health and safety duties placed upon them. Such statutory duties are reinforced by a common law duty of care.

Consequently, the school will develop good practice in this regard and after appropriate consultation with stakeholders officially became a non-smoking environment as consistent with the objective of Health Protection within an educational setting - effective 1st May 2015

All staff – teaching, peripatetic, support and non-teaching as well as visitors and pupils may not smoke while on school premises. The prohibition of tobacco or e-cigarette smoking will apply during related school activities undertaken outside school hours and outside the school premises, i.e. Educational Visits, School Trips, etc.

The Policy has afforded a lead in period to enable staff to adjust to present arrangements. Failure to comply with the provisions included in this policy will be dealt with through the school's Disciplinary Procedures.

POLICY OBJECTIVETS

- To demonstrate the school's commitment to promoting the health of children and staff
- To protect non-smokers from the adverse health effects of environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace. Protection also applies to the use of e-cigarettes.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- Members of staff will be given a copy of the revised Policy which forms part of their contract of employment. Parents are aware of the need to comply with the Policy
- The School Office Staff will inform visitors of the Policy as appropriate on arrival to the school i.e. when signing in at Reception
- Signs and notices will be posted in prominent positions throughout the school premises as a reminder to adhere to the School's Smoking Policy

CHILDREN

The present rules forbidding tobacco smoking while on school premises or while engaged in school related activities outside the school will remain unchanged and the use of e-cigarettes is now also forbidden.

SCHOOL PREMISES UTILISED OUTSIDE NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS

When school premises are used for purposes other than school related activities, the School Smoking Policy that includes a restriction on the use of e-cigarettes will remain in place.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The school Smoking Policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis and rigidly applied by all within the school. It will be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team every two years (next review due November 2018) and where appropriate it will be amended - in consultation with stakeholders. Additional information/support will be sought from CCMS Health and Safety Officer.

A report will be made available to the Board of Governors.

Signed: N. Lynchehaun (Chairperson, Board of Governors)

Signed: M. Ryan (Principal)

Date: 20 November 2016