

# Tempo Primary School



## Smoking Policy

Reviewed by the Board of Governors: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of the Board of Governors)

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mission Statement

**“One more step along the world I go.”**

Tempo Primary School aims to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all its pupils focused on providing opportunities for all children to experience success in learning and to achieve the highest possible standards in academic, sporting, social, cultural, moral and spiritual terms.

We accept our responsibility to prepare the children in our care for an ever changing world. Through their learning experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom, we aim to prepare our children for future experiences and success both in further education and later in the world of work through maximising the personal capabilities of all children.

We value the contribution the wider community makes to our school family and seek to promote in our children a strong sense of belonging and an understanding of how all children can contribute to our local, national and global community.

In the delivery of primary education, we seek to equip all children with the moral, spiritual and social tools they require as they progress through further education and into adulthood. We aim to build a firm foundation on which children can grow as individuals, experience success and make responsible choices for themselves and those around them as they step forward through life's journey.

## **EMPLOYING AUTHORITY POLICY STATEMENT**

Tempo Primary School is committed to the active promotion and ultimate achievement of the goal of a smoke free working environment for all its employees, consistent with the objective of health protection and promotion within an educational setting. The use of electronic cigarettes was not covered in the legislation as they did not exist at that time. However, this policy affords e-cigarettes/vapes the same restrictions as tobacco, for the following reasons:

- The safety of e-cigarettes/vapes has not been scientifically demonstrated as the chemicals used have not been fully disclosed and there is no adequate data on their emissions.
- There is a lack of peer-reviewed evidence on their value in helping smokers cut down or stop; and
- Concerns that e-cigarettes/vapes might reinforce the smoking habit as they are designed to closely mimic smoking actions.

<http://bma.org.uk/search?query=e%20cigarettes>

The policy has been developed in accordance with the recognised Teachers' Unions.

### **1. SMOKING POLICY OBJECTIVES**

- 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 for reasons outlined in paragraph 1 above.
- To demonstrate the school's commitment to promoting the health of pupils and staff.
- To provide information and advice for those who wish to stop smoking.

## **SUMMARY OF EMPLOYER STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS**

- Employers are required by the Health & 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) (e) 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.
- The Health and Safety Inspectorate recommends that all employers should have a specific written policy on smoking in the workplace which gives priority to the needs of non-smokers who do not wish to breathe tobacco smoke. The same principle applies to the use of e-cigarettes/vapes for reasons outlined in paragraph 1.

## **SCHOOL SMOKING POLICY**

- Tempo Primary School has been a non-smoking environment from March 2016.
- All staff - teaching, peripatetic, support, non-teaching and volunteers, as well as visitors and pupils may not smoke while on school premises. The prohibition of tobacco or e-cigarette/vapes smoking will also apply during related school activities undertaken outside school premises, e.g. Educational Visits.
- The failure to comply with the provisions as outlined in this Policy, will be dealt with through the Disciplinary Procedures.

## **POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

- Members of staff and volunteers will be given a copy of the Policy which will become part of their contract of employment.
- Parents will be informed of the Policy.
- Members of staff shall inform school visitors of the Policy.
- Signs and notices shall be posted in prominent positions throughout the school premises.

## **PUPILS**

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/vapes 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's smoking policy that includes a restriction on the use of e-cigarettes/vapes will remain in operation.

### **Monitoring and Review**

- The school's smoking policy will be reviewed every three years by the principal in consultation with staff, pupils, parents and Governors and revised where appropriate.
- Additional information is available from the Employing Authority's Health and Safety Officer.