

# CAVEHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SMOKE-FREE POLICY

### **Purpose**

This policy has been developed to protect all employees, pupils, parents, contractors and visitors from exposure to second-hand smoke and to assist compliance with The Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

Exposure to second-hand smoke, also known as passive smoking, increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Ventilation or separating smokers and non-smokers within the same airspace does not prevent exposure to tobacco smoke.

The safety of e-cigarettes has not been scientifically demonstrated as the chemicals used have not been fully disclosed and there is no adequate data on their emissions. There are also concerns that e-cigarettes might reinforce the smoking habit as they are designed to closely mimic smoking actions. As role models it is essential that we endeavour to encourage our pupils to make healthy lifestyle choices and therefore following guidance from the Department of Education, e-cigarettes are also incorporated into this Smoke-Free Policy.

### **Policy**

It is the policy of Cavehill Primary School that all of our premises (including our grounds) are smoke-free and all employees and pupils have a right to work in a smoke-free environment. The policy will take effect from 30 April 2007 and be reviewed annually.

Smoking and e-cigarette smoking is prohibited throughout the entire school with no exceptions. This policy applies to all employees, peripatetic staff, consultants, contractors, parents, pupils and visitors.

The prohibition of tobacco or e-cigarette smoking will also apply during related school activities undertaken outside school premises e.g. Educational Visits.

### **Implementation**

Overall responsibility for policy implementation and review rests with the Principal, Mr Orr, and in his absence, with the Vice-principal.

All staff are required to adhere to, and facilitate the implementation of the policy. The person named above shall inform all existing employees, parents, consultants and contractors of the policy and their role in the implementation and monitoring of the policy. He will also give all new employees a copy of the policy on recruitment/induction. Appropriate no-smoking signs will be clearly displayed at the entrances to and within the school.

Members of staff will be given a copy of the policy which will become part of their contract of employment. Parents will be informed of the introduction of the policy and members of staff shall inform school visitors of the policy.

### **Non-compliance**

After Policy implementation, failure of staff to comply with its provisions will be dealt with through the Disciplinary Procedures. **TNC 2000/3(updated).**

Standard procedures should be followed if a parent, visitor or contractor does not comply. Under smoke-free legislation, offences relating to the display of signage and smoking in a smoke-free place may attract a fixed penalty notice or lead to a prosecution. Failure to prevent smoking in a smoke-free place may lead to a prosecution. The following information should be carefully noted:

- Any adult who is found to be smoking on school premises will be informed that this is an illegal act and will be asked to stop
- Any adult refusing to comply with this request will be asked to leave the school and if they still refuse to do so will be treated in accordance with the usual procedures that anti-social or illegal behaviour requires
- If physical violence or intimidation is threatened or encountered then the assistance of the PSNI will be sought
- Unannounced inspections by Belfast City Council officers may take place and a fine of £2500 could be levied against the school if it is found to be in breach of this law
- A fine of between £50 and £1000 may be levied against an individual smoking on the school premises

### **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 operation.

### **Help to stop smoking**

Support for smokers who want to stop can be obtained by contacting a number of Charity organisations e.g. The Ulster Cancer Foundation.

The Smokers' Helpline on 0800 85 85 85 is a freephone service, which provides friendly advice and support to smokers about stopping smoking. Additional guidance may be obtained from a GP practice or local pharmacy this will also cover general advice on nicotine replacement therapy and non-nicotine treatments.

Further support is available for staff through the Education and Library Board's CareCall confidential counselling service.

**Review date: March 2016**