

# **BALLINTEER COMMUNITY SCHOOL SMOKING POLICY**

**(in accordance with current HSE Guidelines)**

## **1. POLICY STATEMENT**

Ballinteer Community 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 the school 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 the same restrictions as tobacco, for the following reasons:

- i) 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.
- ii) there is a lack of peer-reviewed evidence on their value in helping smokers cut down or stop.
- iii) concerns that e-cigarettes might reinforce the smoking habit as they are designed to closely mimic smoking actions

## **2. SMOKING POLICY OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1** 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.
- 2.2** To demonstrate the school's commitment to promoting the health of pupils and staff.
- 2.3** To provide information and advice for those who wish to stop smoking.
- 3.3** The Health and Safety Authority recommends that all employers should have a specific written policy on smoking in the work-place 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 for reasons outlined in paragraph 1.

## **5. METHODOLOGY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A SCHOOL SMOKING POLICY**

- 5.1** The initiation and implementation of a successful smoking policy requires the co-operation and whole hearted support of both management and staff.
- 5.2** Following consultation with staff and their recognized Trade Union Representatives about "smoking in their school" the Board of Management will formally adopt the following outline policy relating to smoking.

## **6. SCHOOL SMOKING POLICY**

- 6.1** Ballinteer Community School and grounds will be formally recognized as a non-smoking environment as from the date of ratification of this Policy by the Board of Management
- 6.2** 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 premises, e.g. Educational Visits.

The introduction of the Policy will provide a lead in period to enable staff to adjust to the new arrangements.

- 6.3** After Policy implementation, failure to comply with its provisions will be dealt with through the Disciplinary Procedures.

## **7. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

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

## **8. 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 is now also forbidden.

## **9. 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.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman of Board of Management)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Principal)

Date: Ratified by the Board of Management on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017