

# THE MAELOR SCHOOL



## Smoke Free Policy

Committee Responsible	Finance
Policy Author	EWA
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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Almost all enclosed and substantially enclosed public places and workplaces are included in the scope of this policy, as are public transport and most work vehicles and company cars. Following the introduction of new regulations in 2015, it is now also against the law to smoke in a private vehicle when children are present. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 also places a duty on employers to provide a working environment that is 'safe, without risks to health, and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work'.

1.2 Second-hand smoking, breathing in other people's tobacco smoke, has been shown to cause cancers, heart and respiratory disease in non-smokers. It has a negative effect on those people who suffer from conditions such as asthma. There is considerable evidence regarding the impact of smoking behaviours on children

1.3 As smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in our society, we believe it is our responsibility to promote a no smoking or vaping policy and to give everyone the right to breathe clean air and to avoid the dangers of second-hand smoke. Children need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking/vaping role models if they are to recognise no smoking or vaping as the norm.

1.4 The Maelor School aims to provide a safe working and learning environment for both pupils and staff and to this end, the whole school supports a no-smoking or vaping policy which reinforces the messages within the health initiatives in the wider community.

1.5 This policy applies to all staff, contractors and visitors to all The Maelor Schools premises. This policy applies to anything that can be smoked, including cigarettes, cigars and herbal cigarettes, and it also applies to electronic cigarettes (also known as e-cigarettes).

## 2. Aims of the Policy

2.1 The policy seeks to:

- Provide a no-smoking or vaping environment both within the school building and grounds that protects the health of the whole school community and visitors to our schools.
- To promote a healthy lifestyle by providing excellent role models for all children and adults within the school.
- Equip children with the social skills that enable them to resist the pressure to smoke, either from their peer group or from society in general.
- To set the example of a health-promoting smoke-free environment to all of our schools and wider community in line with government guidance and local priorities to reduce the prevalence of smoking or vaping and the associated risks.
- Guarantee the right of non-smokers to breathe in air that is free from tobacco smoke.
- Raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke.
- Take into account the needs of those who smoke and to support those who wish to stop.

2.2 This policy has due regard to legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Smoke Free Premises etc. (Wales) Regulations 2007
- Public Health (Wales) Act 2017
- Smoke-free Premises and Vehicles (Wales) Regulations 2020

### **3. The Smoke Free Environment**

3.1 The following statements apply to all staff, pupils and visitors to the school e.g. parents, visiting suppliers, temporary staff, contractors and governors.

- Smoking or vaping is not permitted in any part of the school site at any time. This includes all school buildings and the outside areas of the school, including playgrounds, sports fields, or car parks.
- Smoking or vaping by anyone on a school visit or trip is not permitted.
- Smoking or vaping at the entrances and exits to the school site or any part of the boundary will be strongly discouraged.
- The relevant signage is displayed around the school.

3.2 Staff members are expected to inform visitors of the no-smoking or vaping policy. However, they are not expected to enter into any confrontation which may put their personal safety at risk.

### **4. Smoking and Food Hygiene**

Employees involved in the preparation, handling, serving, or transportation of food may smoke only during authorised breaks and in designated areas away from food preparation and service locations. Smoking is not permitted while handling food or food-related equipment.

Following smoking, employees must wash and dry their hands thoroughly before returning to any food-related duties. Any protective clothing or personal protective equipment must be clean and worn correctly before recommencing work.

All staff must comply with the school's Smoke-Free Policy and maintain high standards of personal hygiene to prevent contamination of food and food-contact surfaces.

### **5. Disciplinary Action**

5.1 The day-to-day implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the whole school community, and everybody has a duty to respond to breaches of the policy.

Any person who smokes on the premises will be asked to extinguish the offending item and/or leave the premises.

5.2 If any members of staff wish to smoke, they must leave the school site. Staff who breach the no-smoking or vaping policy are advised that this could result in disciplinary action.

5.3 Breaches of this policy by pupils will result in the involvement of their parents.

### **5. Monitoring and reviewing**

5.1 The policy will be reviewed every 3 years.