

Smoking, E-cigarettes and Legal High's Policy

Aim:

Children's health and wellbeing is of the upmost importance at Playdays Preschool. Smoking has proved to be a health risk and therefore we comply with health and safety regulations and the welfare requirements of the early year's foundation stage on making Plymstock Community Centre a non-smoking environment both indoor and outdoor.

Method:

The following applies to both tobacco and e-cigarettes:

We respect that it is a personal choice to smoke. As an organisation, we support healthy lifestyles and help parents and staff members stop smoking by:

- Providing factsheets and leaflets
- Providing information for local help groups
- Providing details of the NHS Quit Smoking helpline www.smokefree.nhs.uk

All staff, parents, and volunteers are made aware of our non-smoking policy on enrolment and induction. This policy is described in the parent and staff handbook given at induction and enrolment.

No smoking signs are displayed throughout the centre.

Staff who smoke do not do so during working hours unless on a break. They must not smoke on community centre premises.

Staff who smoke during their break or during their travel to and from work, must make every effort to reduce the effect of the odour and lingering effects of passive smoking for children and colleagues. This includes covering or changing of uniform when smoking and smoke away from the main entrance.

Staff accompanying children outside of the setting are not permitted to smoke. We also request that parents accompanying children on outings and visits refrain from smoking whilst caring for children.

It is a criminal offence for employees to smoke in smoke free areas with a fixed penalty of £50.00 or prosecution and a fine of up to £200.00.

Legal Highs

Legal highs are substances which produce similar effects to illegal drugs but are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act. They are not sold to be consumed by humans but normally for cosmetic and gardening purposes.

Legal highs can produce a reaction which would normally fall into 3 categories:

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Stimulants – energize an individual and can make them physically active, increase speed of thought, induce euphoria, make talkative. Can also produce overconfidence or anxiety, panic, confusion or paranoia.

Downers or sedatives – Euphoria, relaxed, sleep, reduce inhibitions, memory loss and slowing of reactions.

Psychedelics or hallucinogen – create altered perceptions and cause hallucinations, can produce wide variety of responses from euphoria, warmth and detachment, to confusion and panic.

Although it is not illegal to possess legal highs, Playdays Preschool strictly prohibits the use or storage of legal highs on our property. We are not qualified to recognise the difference between illegal and legal substances. Any discovered substances on our premises will be treated as illegal and the police will be informed. The use of legal highs by staff at any time, or storage on preschool premises will be considered gross misconduct and disciplinary action will be taken.

Legal Framework

The Smoke Free Premises and Enforcement Regulations 2006

The Smoke Free Signs Regulations 2007