**BLACKPOOL MUSIC SCHOOL**

No Smoking Policy

March 2024

# Policy Statement

The Charity’s policy on smoking is designed to secure a healthy and safe environment for staff, volunteers, Trustees and service users as well as eliminating passive smoking from its premises in keeping with the Health Act 2006 (the ‘2006 Act’). This is in the context that medical evidence continues to reinforce the link between the inhalation of tobacco smoke, and particularly the associated toxins and carcinogens, either directly or by passive smoking, and serious illness.

# Scope & Purpose

In order to promote the health and safety of both students and staff, the Charity will endeavour to ensure that its premises are free from tobacco smoke. The smoking of tobacco is not permitted in the Charity’s premises both inside and out as covered by the 2006 Act.

In line with the current guidance from the British Medical Association, the Policy also applies to the vapour from electronic cigarettes. The use of electronic cigarettes is prohibited wherever smoking is prohibited. **[Further guidance attached at Appendix A.]**

The policy applies to all Charity staff, volunteers, any tenants or hirers and service users, as well as to visitors, contractors, and sub-contractors while on Charity premises.

# Principles

It is the Charity’s policy not to intrude on the privacy of individuals, particularly in health matters, where their conduct or performance at work is not affected. Nor is it intended to discriminate against smokers in recruitment and admissions arrangements.

The Charity will support individuals who wish to give up the habit of smoking. However, violations of the policy may be considered under the Charity’s Disciplinary Policy.

The organisation can provide advice on handling any staff disciplinary matters.

# Benefits

The benefits of operating this policy include reduced health and safety, including fire, risks, decreasing absence levels, and an improvement of the view taken of the Charity as a responsible employer, in addition to compliance with legislation.

# Definition of Premises

This Policy applies to the premises referred to as the School in this document owned by the Charity and occupied by employees, volunteers, hirers, or other persons. At the discretion of the Board of Trustees, smoking is permitted in any designated smoking area, provided that smokers do not obstruct access to or exit from the premises.

The ‘designated smoking area’ is located ……………………………………………………

# Procedure and Responsibility

All are expected to take personal responsibility for observing this policy and should feel able to draw this policy to the attention of colleagues, and of visitors to the Charity. Managers/Trustees should be aware of the need to remind anyone found smoking on Charity premises of this policy. Individuals who wish to smoke should be asked to leave Charity buildings.

# Support Systems

The Charity is committed to supporting anyone wishing to stop smoking. Cessation support and advice can be provided via individual’s G.P.s or other NHS agencies. Information on smoking cessation support is available via the internet based on where you live.

# Appendix A

**Electronic Cigarettes (E-cigarettes)**

The use of electronic cigarettes is an issue which is now more prevalent, and the Charity is keen to take a responsible approach to their use.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered products designed to replicate smoking behaviour without the use of tobacco. E-cigarettes contain nicotine, and a variety of other chemicals. Studies have shown that the vapours from e-cigarettes have been found to contain carcinogens and toxins.

The British Medical Association (BMA) note that e-cigarettes are currently subject to limited regulation, they are not currently licensed as a medicine in the UK, and there is no peer- reviewed evidence that they are safe or effective as an aid to stopping smoking.

In October 2013, the European Parliament passed a draft law to introduce a raft of measures aimed at regulating e-cigarettes to ensure they are a safe and effective way of cutting down or quitting smoking.

The BMA believes the existing smoke-free legislation in place in the UK should be extended to include vapour from e-cigarettes. As an interim measure, the BMA recommend that e- cigarettes are prohibited in workplaces and public places, in order to (a) limit second-hand exposure to the vapour exhaled by the user ('passive vaping'), and (b) to ensure their use does not undermine smoking prevention and cessation by leading people to believe it is acceptable to smoke.

The Board of Trustees agreed No Smoking Policy should be extended to cover e-cigarettes in the same way as it covers conventional cigarettes, in line with current guidance from the BMA. Should the BMA or other authoritative guidance alter significantly in the future, then it is anticipated that our No Smoking Policy will require to be updated accordingly.

Further Information

* BMA Information on Electronic Cigarettes:

https://[www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/policy-and-research/public-and-population-](http://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/policy-and-research/public-and-population-) health/tobacco/e-cigarettes

* European Parliament News: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdfs/news/expert/infopress/20131004IPR21539/201> 31004IPR21539\_en.pdf

Signed:

 Chairperson

 Blackpool Music School Date: