**Dear Parent/Carer**

**North Ayrshire school grounds going completely Smoke-Free**

On the 31 January 2018, North Ayrshire Council are implementing a **total** smoke-free grounds approach across all of its schools.

This means that everyone, including staff, parents and visitors should not smoke or use a vaping device anywhere in the school grounds, including within vehicles on the grounds and at the school gates.

**Why are we doing this?**

The Council has a number of responsibilities in supporting Scottish Government legislation and strategies, including the ‘Creating a Tobacco Free Generation’ strategy. This strategy has actions encouraging Local Authorities to make their grounds smoke-free.

 In addition the Council and its Community Planning Partners have signed up to ASH Scotland’s ‘Charter for a Tobacco Free Generation’. This charter puts children at the heart of an approach to reducing exposure to second-hand smoke and the Council have put children at the heart of its business as a Child-Centred Organisation. One of the six key guiding principles of the charter states that ‘children should play, learn and socialise in places that are free from tobacco smoke’.

Both adults and children are vulnerable to the effects of passive smoking or secondhand tobacco smoke, and children can be susceptible to a number of smoking-related conditions, including more frequent and severe Asthma attacks, respiratory infections and ear infections.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that The Smoking Prohibition (Children in Motor Vehicles) (Scotland) Act 2016 bans smoking in private vehicles when children under the age of 18 are present.

**Electronic Cigarettes (and vaping devices)**

Although electronic cigarettes or vaping devices are thought to be safer than smoking tobacco, they are not completely harm free and everyone will be asked to use these devices outside the school grounds.

**Sources of Support**

For anyone thinking of stopping smoking the NHS Fresh Airshire Service is the main smoking cessation support service in Ayrshire and can be contacted by calling – 0800 783 9132 or emailing Freshair-shire@aapct.scot.nhs.uk.

Many pharmacies also provide 1 to 1 support – please check with your local pharmacist.

Thank you for helping us to help your children lead a healthier life.