

CARRICKFERGUS MODEL SCHOOL



SMOKING POLICY

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SMOKING POLICY

The Board of Governors of Carrickfergus Model Primary School is committed to ensure that our school is a completely non-smoking / smoke free environment. The main element of the policy is that our school premises (both indoor and outdoor) should be non-smoking / smoke-free at all times, and that this policy is applied to all people (staff, pupils, parents, contractors and visitors). This policy also extends to the use of Nicotine Containing Products (NCPs) of which e-cigarettes are the most common form.

Smoking remains the single greatest cause of preventable death and illness, killing over 2,300 people here each year. The harm caused by tobacco smoke also extends to non-smokers through exposure to second-hand smoke with children and young people being particularly vulnerable. The introduction of smoke-free legislation which seeks to protect employees and the public from exposure to second-hand smoke, however, has meant that, since 30th April 2007, it is against the law to smoke in most enclosed and substantially enclosed workplaces and public places including work vehicles and public transport. School premises, must be non-smoking / smoke free **at all times**.

Electronic cigarettes on school premises

Electronic cigarettes are battery-powered vapour inhaler devices that generally contain nicotine, along with propylene glycol and glycerine. They were developed as an alternative to tobacco products and have become increasingly popular. Although we perceive electronic cigarettes to be less harmful than tobacco, there are concerns about their safe use, particularly when children and young people use them, because the electronic cigarette market is unregulated.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Northern Ireland has advised that schools prohibit electronic cigarettes on their premises, in line with tobacco products, because:

- nicotine is very addictive and there is a risk that using electronic cigarettes could act as a gateway into smoking for many young people;
- evidence suggests that adolescent exposure to nicotine may also have long term consequences for brain development;
- the availability and promotion of electronic cigarettes is reversing progress made by smoke-free legislation to de-normalise smoking; and
- there is insufficient evidence to determine whether the vapour produced by electronic cigarettes causes damage to users' health in the long term.

The same applies to the impact of second-hand vapour the user exhales. There is also a potential risk that users might fill the refillable cartridges used in some electronic cigarettes with substances other than nicotine. This has the potential to serve as a new and potentially dangerous way to deliver other drugs.

The CMO recommended that the Department of Education extend its current guidance to schools, which encourages them to implement a complete smoking ban on both internal and external premises, to include electronic cigarettes. Reflecting this advice, the Department issued Circular 2014/25 to all schools on 15 December 2014. The Employing Authority's *Smoking Policy for Schools* (TNC 2000/3) at www.deni.gov.uk.

1. EMPLOYING AUTHORITY POLICY STATEMENT

The Employing Authority 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 an educational 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:

- 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.
- there is a lack of peer-reviewed evidence on their value in helping smokers cut down or stop.
- concerns that e-cigarettes might reinforce the smoking habit as they are designed to closely mimic smoking actions <http://bma.org.uk/search?query=e%20cigarettes>

The policy has been developed in consultation with the recognised Teachers' Unions.

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. SUMMARY OF EMPLOYER STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

3.1 Employers are required by the Health & Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of their employees and others who use their premises.

3.2 Article 4(2) (e) of the Order requires that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the working environment is safe, without risks to health and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for employees. In addition, under Article 8, employees must take reasonable care of their own health, safety and welfare, as well as that of others and must co-operate with their employers' efforts to discharge any statutory health and safety duties placed upon them. Such statutory duties are reinforced by a common law duty of care.

3.3 The Health and Safety Inspectorate recommends that all employers should have a specific written policy on smoking in the workplace 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.

4. DESIGNATED SMOKING AREAS

4.1 There are NO designated smoking areas at Carrickfergus Model Primary School

5. SUGGESTED METHODOLOGY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A SCHOOL SMOKING POLICY

5.1 The initiation and implementation of a successful smoking policy requires the cooperation and whole hearted support of both management and staff.

5.2 Following consultation with staff and their recognised Trade Union Representatives about “smoking in their school” the Board of Governors may consider the formal adoption of the following outline policy relating to smoking.

6. SCHOOL SMOKING POLICY

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 ecigarette smoking will apply during related school activities undertaken outside school premises, eg. 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.

10. MONITORING AND REVIEW

10.1 The school smoking policy will be monitored alongside other Health and Safety Policies as required by the Senior Management Team of the school in consultation with staff. The Policy will be reviewed and, if appropriate, revised.

10.2 Additional information is available from the Employing Authority’s Health and Safety Officer.