

St Killian's College, Garron Tower



Smoking Policy

Mission Statement

“St Killian’s is a Catholic College which strives to achieve excellence for all, within a happy, supportive and stimulating learning community.”

Date Reviewed
17 June 2024

J. Brady
Principal

Sean Coleman
Chair of Board of Governors
Board of Governors Meeting 12/12/16



St Killian's College, Garron Tower Smoking Policy



ST KILLIAN'S COLLEGE SMOKE FREE POLICY

AIMS:

At St Killian's we take the health of all our students and staff very seriously and as such, we seek to:

- protect our staff, children, young people and visitors from the effects of tobacco smoke.
- protection also applies to the use of vapes for reasons outlined on page 2. (Vapes paragraph)
- provide a healthy environment for employees and students.
- acknowledge our educational role in discouraging children and young people from starting to smoke.
- provide positive role models in relation to smoking, which is consistent with the taught curriculum.
- provide support to students and staff who would like to quit smoking.

BACKGROUND:

This document identifies how the school will continue to maintain a smoke free environment within the school premises for the benefit of students, staff, visitors, parents and carers as well as members of the public.

The school will continue to encourage and support students to stop smoking through PSHE lessons, work with Pastoral Care Team and the School Nurse.

Passive smoking is a health and safety issue for all adults in the workplace, leading to increased costs to the school through sick pay, absenteeism and loss of productivity. Children and young people are more susceptible than adults to the effects of passive smoking. Associated illnesses include bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma and other respiratory problems.

Smoking is particularly damaging in young people. Evidence shows that people who start smoking in their youth, particularly between the ages of 11 and 15, are three times more likely to die a premature death than someone who takes up smoking at the age of 20. They are also more likely to be hooked for life. Nicotine, an ingredient of tobacco, is highly addictive, it takes, on average, about six cigarettes before nicotine receptors in the brain are switched on, generating a craving for nicotine which may continue for the rest of the person's life. In less than one packet of cigarettes, a person's brain can be changed forever from that of a non-smoker to a nicotine addicted smoker.



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Although the health risks of smoking are cumulative, giving up can yield health benefits, regardless of the age of the smoker, or the length of time they have been smoking.

Vapes:

Electronic cigarettes mimic the effects of real cigarettes by producing a vapour that is potentially less harmful than cigarette smoke and free of some of its damaging substances, such as tar. However, experts state that it is not yet known what harm these devices could inflict on young people's health and their contents could be damaging to their long term health. Because they are not regulated, the contents of Vapes can vary. Some have been found to contain toxic chemicals which are also found in tobacco and have been linked to cancer. Moreover, as these devices mimic the effects of real cigarettes, it is often difficult to tell from a distance whether a person is smoking a real cigarette or an e-cigarette. For these reasons, all forms of e- cigarettes are also banned from St Killian's College site. Therefore, **this policy also applies to students or staff members found smoking any form of e-cigarette. (See Appendix 3)**

SCHOOL SMOKING POLICY

- St Killian's College is a non-smoking environment from 01 September 2015.
- 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 **e- cigarette smoking will apply during related school activities undertaken outside school premises, e.g. Educational Visits.** The introduction of the Policy will provide a lead in period to enable staff to adjust to the new arrangements.
- After Policy implementation, failure to comply with its provisions will be dealt with through the Disciplinary Procedures.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

(Appendix 1)

- Members of staff will be given a copy of the Policy which will become part of their contract of employment.
- Parents will be informed of the introduction of the Policy.
- Members of staff shall inform school visitors of the Policy
- Signs and notices shall be posted in prominent positions throughout the school premises.



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The following will apply

Students

- Students are not allowed to smoke on or near the school site.
- Students are not allowed to smoke whilst on a school activity/trip.

Staff

- Staff are not allowed to smoke in sight of students. This will include visits, school excursions etc. and include both teaching and non-teaching staff.

Transport Providers

- Translink Drivers and Private Hire Drivers are not allowed to smoke in sight of students.

Parents and Carers:Visitors

- Parents and carers are required to adhere to the Smoking Policy

Events

- The College Smoke Free policy applies to all social events.
- Where events are booked by outside agencies, all parties must be made aware of the school's Smoke Free Policy.

Signage

- Smoke Free signs will be displayed prominently at all entrances to the school grounds.
- In accordance with Smoke Free Legislation signs must be displayed throughout the school premises and in school vehicles.

Supporting Quit Attempts

The School Nurse is a trained smoking cessation specialist who will support students and staff who express an interest in quitting smoking in the following ways:

- Quit smoking strategies
- Behavioural support to quit smoking
- Offering assistance with accessing Nicotine Replacement Therapies
- Signposting to relevant support services e.g. www.want2stop.info

Students who are found smoking on the school site:

- Students found smoking or those in the company of smokers, will complete an internal detention and be encouraged to undertake a smoking cessation programme.
- Students found with cigarettes, Vapes, lighters etc. will have these confiscated.
- The School Nurse will arrange to meet with each named student to provide information on the harmful effects of smoking and offer support to quit smoking, as outlined above.
- Persistent offenders will be dealt with as per the Positive Behaviour Policy.
(Appendix 1)



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If a member of staff is found smoking on the school site:

Anyone found smoking indoors will be in breach of the Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 legislation. This legislation is enforced by Tobacco Control Officers, working for the local district councils, who may visit school premises at any-time for enforcement purposes.

If visitors or parents/carers are found smoking on the school site:

They will be asked to refrain from doing so.

Anyone found smoking indoors will be in breach of the Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 legislation. This legislation is enforced by Tobacco Control Officers, working for the local district councils, who may visit school premises at any-time for enforcement purposes.

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 Vapes will remain in operation.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The school smoking policy will be monitored at least once per year by the Senior Leadership Team of the school in consultation with staff and a report made to the Board of Governors. The Policy will be reviewed and, if appropriate, revised. Additional information is available from the Employing Authority's Health and Safety Officer.

Signed: _____ **(Chairman of Board of Governors)**

Signed: _____ **(Principal)**

Date: _____



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APPENDIX 1

Positive Behaviour Policy

'Cigarettes, alcohol and drugs: All of these are banned substances. Illicit drugs are dealt with in the 'School's Drug Policy'.

SMOKING: In accordance with legislation, St Killian's College is a non-smoking school. One of the aims of the pastoral care programmes in the school is to promote a positive attitude towards personal health therefore; students are not permitted to smoke on school premises and grounds. Smoking in the school is regarded as a serious offence. If students are in breach of this rule they will be put on detention after school, persistent offences will lead to parents being asked to attend the school and further disciplinary action may be taken'.

Other relevant policies/circulars Drugs

Policy

Healthy School Policy CCMS

Circular 2014/21



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Appendix 2

Sample letter to parents

Student: [insert student name]

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter is to inform you that your child has been found smoking on the school premises.

At St Killian's College we are committed to protecting our staff, children, young people and visitors from the effects of tobacco smoke. We aim to provide help and support for students who smoke to quit smoking. The dangers of smoking regardless of age are very real.

Smoking causes an immediate and sometimes irreversible health effect on young people, giving them health risks which can seriously damage their health and fitness, before leaving school. Smoking in teenage years often leads to a costly adult addiction which is likely to limit their life chances and employability.

As a school team we have provided your son/daughter with information on the dangers of smoking and the opportunity to quit.

At this time, we are asking for support from the parents/carers of these students who smoke or to socialize with their friends who smoke. If you receive this letter, your child has been identified as one of these students.

Our Smoke Free Site Policy clearly states that students must not smoke. This policy is accessible via our school's website, I have also enclosed a copy of this policy with this letter, for your information.

Any support from you to discourage your child from smoking, or associating with pupils who smoke, would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to find out more about quit smoking services please log onto: www.want2stop.info

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

KS
Senior Leader



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Appendix 2

Sample School Nurse Letter to Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Health Improvement Programme

Your child has signed up to a 6-8 week health improvement programme during school hours. This programme is delivered by the School Nurse and will cover many aspects of health promotion including the following:

- Cancer prevention
- Physical activity
- Heart Health
- Smoking (as part of this programme Nicotine Replacement Therapy may be issued)

In order for your child to participate in this programme we require your consent. **Please fill out the attached slip and return to Mrs Grainne Harkin (School Nurse)**

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

Grainne Harkin
School Nurse

Health Improvement Programme

Name _____ Class _____

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend the health improvement programme delivered by the School Nurse

Signed _____ Print name _____ Date: _____



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APPENDIX 3

EMPLOYING AUTHORITY POLICY STATEMENT (CCMS)

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 Vapes the same restrictions as tobacco, for the following reasons:

- the safety of Vapes 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 Vapes 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.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYER STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Vapes for reasons outlined in paragraph 1.