

Carr's Glen Primary and Nursery School



Smoke Free Policy

August 2019

Purpose

This policy has been developed to protect all employees, service users, customers and visitors from exposure to second-hand smoke and to assist compliance with The Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

Exposure to second-hand smoke, also known as passive smoking, increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Ventilation or separating smokers and non-smokers within the same airspace does not prevent exposure to tobacco smoke.

Following DENI Guidance (see Circular 2014/25) this policy also covers the use of e-cigarette's.

The following is an extract from the circular

6.2 While they are perceived to be less harmful than tobacco, NCPs are currently unregulated. As such, there are concerns about their safe use, particularly by children and young people. In order to address these concerns, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for the north of Ireland has written to the Department, to advise that the use of e-cigarettes on school premises should be prohibited, in line with tobacco products, for the following reasons:

- (i) is very addictive and, through e-cigarettes, has the potential to act as a gateway into tobacco smoking;
- (ii) there is evidence to suggest that adolescent exposure to nicotine may also have long-term consequences for brain development;
- (iii) the availability and promotion of e-cigarettes is reversing progress made by smoke free legislation to denormalise smoking; and
- (iv) there is insufficient evidence to determine whether the vapour produced by e-cigarettes causes damage to users' health in the long-term. The same applies to the impact of second hand vapour exhaled by the user.

Policy

It is the policy of Carr's Glen Primary School that all of our workplaces are smoke-free and all employees and pupils have a right to work in a smoke-free environment. The policy shall come into effect on 30th April 2007 and be reviewed on a regular basis by Carr's Glen Primary School Governors

Smoking and the use of e-cigarettes is prohibited throughout the entire workplace with no exceptions. In our case this means the grounds and buildings of Carr's Glen Primary School, which is considered as our working environment. This also includes company vehicles, should a member of staff be on official school business. This policy applies to all employees, pupils, peripatetic consultants, contractors, parents and visitors. This applies to any other agency using the school premises

Implementation

Overall responsibility for policy implementation and review rests with the Principal on behalf of the Governors, the Vice-Principal in their absence, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

All staff are required to adhere to, and facilitate the implementation of the policy. The person named above shall inform all existing employees, consultants, contractors, parents and visitors of the policy and their role in the implementation and monitoring of the policy.

A copy of the policy should be made available to all staff, including new staff on recruitment/induction. Parents and visitors will be informed/reminded of the policy and it will be

available on the school website. Appropriate no-smoking signs will be clearly displayed at the entrances to and within the premises.

Non-compliance

Should a member of staff fail to comply with the policy then this will be dealt with under the normal school Disciplinary Procedures.

Standard procedures should be followed if a customer, visitor or passenger does not comply. Under smoke-free legislation, offences relating to the display of signage and smoking in a smoke-free place may attract a fixed penalty notice or lead to a prosecution. Failure to prevent smoking in a smoke-free place may lead to a prosecution.

The following are guidance to enforcing of the policy and the emphasis will be placed on courteously informing anyone smoking that they are in breach of school policy and legislation.

- Any adult who is found to be smoking on school premises will be politely informed that this is an illegal act and will be asked to stop
- Any adult refusing to comply with this request will be asked to leave the school premises and if they still refuse to do so will be treated in accordance with the usual procedures that anti-social or illegal behaviour requires. This may involve contacting the PSNI.
- If physical violence or intimidation is threatened or encountered by a member of staff making the above request then the assistance of the PSNI will be sought
- Unannounced inspections by Belfast City Council officers may take place and a fine of £2500 could be levied against the school if it is found to be in breach of this law
- A fine of between £50 and £1000 may be levied against an individual smoking on the school premises

Help to stop smoking

Support for smokers who want to stop will be provided can be obtained by telephoning, The Smokers' Helpline on 0800 85 85 85. This is a freephone service, which provides friendly advice and support to smokers about stopping smoking. If you want to talk to someone face-to-face, ask at your GP practice or local pharmacy where you can get general advice on nicotine replacement therapy and non-nicotine treatments. You may also avail of counselling services through Carecall or Jigsaw.

Policy Reviewed August 2019