

Coleraine College



Smoking Policy

September 2019

“Smoking” refers to smoking tobacco or anything which contains tobacco, or smoking any other substance. For the purposes of this policy smoking also refers to the smoking or vaping of electronic or e-cigarettes. The School currently regards the use of e-cigarettes and equipment used for ‘vaping’ in the same light as all other means of smoking.

Premises will be smoke-free if they are open to the public and/or are used as a place of work. The school premises will include all buildings, sports fields and areas within the boundaries of Coleraine College. Smoking is also prohibited on vehicles hired by the school or in any vehicle on the school premises.

Principles

Coleraine College is committed to:

- Providing the highest quality of education and social development for pupils to ensure their emotional and physical well being.
- Educating all employees, pupils, parents, contractors and other visitors of the dangers of smoking and vaping to health and that smoking is known to be the principal avoidable cause of premature deaths in the UK.
- Providing a healthy, clean and safe working environment for all employees, pupils, parents, contractors and other visitors.

Aims

- To enable all pupils and staff to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes towards smoking.
- To provide a programme of education and accurate information about the health risks associated with smoking.
- To have clear procedures for dealing with anyone found smoking on the premises or in the case of pupils found to be in possession of smoking materials, to ensure that such procedures are consistent and clearly understood.
- To ensure an adequate programme for Personal, Social Education & Health, with appropriate resourcing and staff training is in place to help young people make informed decisions about smoking.
- To ensure that pupils, staff, parents, contractors and any other visitors are informed about the school's policy and procedures relating to smoking.
- To ensure that penalties for smoking on the school site are consistently and fairly applied.

Practice

The school seeks to create the conditions in which pupils and staff take responsibility for their own health and behaviour. For this to take place, staff, pupils and parents should work to an agreed set of standards which clearly identifies the consequences of a failure to work

towards them. This Smoking Policy will, therefore, clearly define the penalties for noncompliance and so create the correct, healthy and clean conditions within school in which everyone can work.

Coleraine College will seek to build an effective partnership between the school, parents and pupils and will inform parents about the non-compliance of their children with this policy. The school will acknowledge and support the efforts of its pupils and staff to improve their health through the promotion of non-smoking through curriculum materials, assemblies and appropriate displays. The school will challenge the behaviour of those pupils who give low priority to the elimination of smoking on school premises.

The measures contained within this policy can include measures to regulate and control the behaviour of staff or pupils when they are not being educated within school, e.g. when attending college placements, on work experience, school visits, or on any other occasion when pupils are not on the school premises but are in the charge of the school.

Protocol for non-compliance by staff

- Disciplinary procedures may be followed if a member of staff does not comply with this policy.

Protocol for non-compliance by visitors

- Visitors who do not comply with this policy will be asked to leave the premises.

Protocol for non-compliance by pupils

Pupils will be punished for smoking/ vaping if:

- They are seen smoking /vaping on school premises
- They are seen smoking /vaping on the way to or home from school while in school uniform
- They are seen with a lit cigarette /e-cigarette in their possession.
- They are found to have cigarettes/ e-cigarettes and/or other smoking materials openly in their possession.

Sanctions

If pupils are found to be smoking they will receive a sanction as soon as practicable from the time of transgression. A report of the incident will be completed by the relevant member of staff and recorded on SIMS.

Sanctions may include detentions, withdrawal at break or lunch time, or for those who persistently disregard the school regulations and /or show blatant defiance if caught smoking, suspension from school.

Support

The school takes its responsibilities in supporting staff and pupils to maintain their health and wellbeing seriously and the may direct pupils and /or staff to strategies and organisations to help with the cessation of smoking.