

Borrisokane Community College

Smoke-Free Policy

Purpose

Exposure to second-hand smoke/Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) also known as passive smoking is a cause of disease, including lung cancer and heart disease, in third parties. Neither the simple separation of smokers and non-smokers within the same airspace nor the provision of ventilation can eliminate exposure to ETS and the consequent health effects of such exposure. This policy has been developed to protect all staff, students, employees, service users, customers and visitors from exposure to ETS, to ensure compliance with legal obligations and to ensure a safe working environment.

Policy

It is the policy of Borrisokane Community College that all of its premises (both internal and external) are smoke-free and that all staff, students, and employees have a right to work and study in a smoke-free environment. Smoking is prohibited throughout the entire premises with no exceptions. This policy applies to all staff, students, employees, consultants, contractors, customers and visitors. This policy applies to all school vehicles and vehicles hired on behalf of the school.

Note: For the purpose of this policy the premises include the area within the site boundary of Borrisokane Community College and all buildings thereon under the control of Borrisokane Community College.

Application of Policy

No person shall distribute or use any tobacco product in any areas of the school or the school grounds. Individuals supervising students off school grounds are prohibited from distributing or using any tobacco product. No school property may be used for advertising of any tobacco product. Groups using the school or grounds must agree to comply with the policy and inform all persons that the policy remains in force on evenings, weekends and other times the school is not in session.

Implementation

Overall responsibility for policy implementation rests with the Principal or other person for the time being in charge of the college. All members, staff and students have an obligation to adhere to, and facilitate the implementation of this policy.

The Principal shall inform all staff, existing employees, consultants and contractors of the policy and their role in the implementation and monitoring of the policy. The Principal and staff shall inform all students of the policy and their role in the implementation and monitoring of the policy. All new and prospective staff, employees, consultants and contractors shall be given a copy of the policy on recruitment/induction by the person in charge.

Policy Infringements

Infringements by students will be dealt with through the schools Code of Behaviour. The punishment for smoking by students is suspension from school. Infringements by staff will be dealt with under local disciplinary procedures. Infringements by customers, clients etc., will be dealt with in accordance with the procedure set out below. Employees, consultants, contractors, customers and visitors who contravene legislation prohibiting smoking in the workplace are also liable to a criminal prosecution with an associated fine.

Smoking Cessation

Information on how to obtain help quitting smoking is available from: The National Smokers Quitline (1850 201 203. 8am – 10 pm) or the Health Promotion Service of the local health board (067 42339).

Procedure if a person smokes in contravention of Section 47 of the Public Health (Tobacco) Acts that prohibits smoking in the workplace

- 1.** Draw the person's attention to the "No Smoking" signs and advise that he/she is committing an offence by smoking on the premises.
- 2.** Advise the person that it is also an offence for the occupier, manager and any other person for the time being in charge of the premises to permit anyone to smoke in contravention of the law.
- 3.** Advise the person that the business has a smoke-free policy to ensure a safe working environment for staff and customers. And that under the policy staff are obliged to refuse service to customers who persist in smoking.
- 4.** If the person continues to smoke immediately request that he/she leaves the premises.
- 5.** If the person refuses, implement normal procedure for antisocial/illegal behaviour in the premises.
- 6.** Maintain an appropriate record of all such incidents and notify all staff of action taken.
- 7.** In all cases where physical violence is threatened or encountered, notify and/or seek the assistance of the Gardaí.

