



Borrisokane Community College



Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Policy



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Borrisokane Community College Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Policy

Purpose

Exposure to **second-hand smoke** (Environmental Tobacco Smoke – ETS) and **vapour emissions from electronic cigarettes (vapes)** is known to cause harm to health, including increased risks of respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Neither separating users from non-users nor using ventilation can eliminate exposure to these substances or their effects.

This policy has been developed to:

- Protect all **staff, students, visitors, and contractors** from exposure to tobacco smoke and vaping emissions.
- Ensure **compliance with legal obligations** under the Public Health (Tobacco) Acts and related legislation.
- Promote and maintain a **safe, healthy, and smoke/vape-free environment** for all members of the school community.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of **Borrisokane Community College** that all college **premises and grounds** are **completely smoke-free and vape-free zones**.

The use of, or distribution of:

- Cigarettes, cigars, pipes,
- Electronic cigarettes (vapes, vape pens, e-cigars, e-hookahs, pod systems, or similar devices), and
- Any tobacco or nicotine-delivery product

is strictly **prohibited** within all areas of the school premises and grounds, including but not limited to:

- **All school buildings**
- **Car park areas** (including staff, student, and visitor/parent cars)
- **Walkways and outdoor spaces** within the site boundary
- Playing fields and recreational areas
- **All school vehicles** and vehicles hired or used on behalf of the school

This policy applies to **all staff, students, contractors, parents, and visitors** at all times — including evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Application of Policy

For the purposes of this policy, a **“tobacco product”** refers to **any substance or device intended for smoking, inhalation, or nicotine delivery**, including but not limited to:

- Cigarettes, cigars, roll-your-own tobacco, and pipes
- Electronic cigarettes (vapes, vape pens, e-cigars, e-hookahs, pod systems, or similar devices)
- Any refill liquids, cartridges, or components containing nicotine or tobacco derivatives
- Heated tobacco products (e.g., IQOS and similar devices)
- Herbal or synthetic products intended to mimic tobacco or vaping

No person shall **use, possess, or distribute** any tobacco or vaping product in any area of the school or its grounds.

Individuals supervising students off-site must also adhere to this policy and must not smoke or vape while representing the school.

School property may not be used for **advertising, promoting, or displaying** any tobacco, vaping, or related products.

Groups renting or using school facilities must agree to comply with this policy and inform all participants accordingly.

Implementation

Overall responsibility for implementation lies with the **Principal** or the person in charge at the time. All members of the school community share responsibility for supporting and enforcing this policy.

- The **Principal** will inform all staff, contractors, and visitors of this policy and its requirements.
 - Staff will inform all students about the policy, its health rationale, and the consequences of non-compliance.
 - New and prospective staff, contractors, and students will receive a copy of this policy during induction.
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Policy Infringements

- **Students:** Infringements will be dealt with under the **School Code of Behaviour – Rule 2 Section B – Respect for Property**. The use or possession of tobacco or vaping products constitutes a serious breach and may result in **suspension**.

As part of the school’s restorative approach, students who breach this policy will also be required to **write out and reflect on the school’s Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Policy**, ensuring they understand the purpose and importance of maintaining a healthy, safe environment for all.

- **Staff:** Infringements will be addressed through local **disciplinary procedures**.
- **Visitors, contractors, or other adults:** Those found in breach will be asked to cease smoking or vaping immediately or leave the premises. Continued refusal may result in removal from the premises and/or notification to the appropriate authorities.

Anyone contravening the **Public Health (Tobacco) Acts** may also be subject to **legal penalties** and fines.

Smoking and Vaping Cessation Support

The school encourages and supports individuals who wish to quit smoking or vaping. Support and information are available from:

- **HSE Quit Service:** Freephone **1800 201 203**, or visit www.quit.ie
 - Local **Health Promotion Service** (Tel: 067 42339)
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Procedure for Addressing Breaches

If a person smokes or vapes in contravention of this policy or Section 47 of the Public Health (Tobacco) Acts:

1. **Inform** the person of the policy and direct their attention to “No Smoking/Vaping” signage.
2. **Advise** that they are committing an offence and that it is also an offence for management to permit such activity.
3. **Explain** that the school maintains a smoke-free and vape-free environment for the safety and wellbeing of all.
4. **Request** that they stop smoking/vaping immediately or leave the premises.
5. If refusal continues, **follow normal procedures** for managing antisocial or illegal behaviour.
6. **Record** all incidents and inform the Principal of actions taken.
7. In cases where there is **threat or risk of violence**, contact the **Gardaí** immediately.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every **two years**, or sooner if changes in legislation or best practice require an update.

Adoption and Communication

The Board of Management adopted this policy at a meeting on **30 April 2026** and the policy is available on the school website.