

KILRUSH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SMOKE-FREE POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

In an Irish, European and Christian context, Kiltrush Community School endeavours to create a community atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect within which students learn, mature and develop their respective talents.

Kiltrush Community School Aims:

1. To develop a challenging learning environment which promotes high expectations of individual performance from students and enables staff to professionally discharge their duties.
2. To give students access to a broad and balanced curriculum within a caring, co-operative community.
3. To ensure that all staff and students enjoy equality of esteem and opportunity.
4. To foster among students an awareness of their environment, heritage and health enabling them to play a positive role within the local and wider community.
5. To equip students with a strong sense of self-esteem, self-discipline and self-motivation.
6. To foster universal values of compassion, integrity, honesty and respect.

KILRUSH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Smoke-Free Policy

Policy Statement

The exposure to Environmental Tobacco smoke can cause cancer and other serious and fatal illnesses, including heart disease and respiratory problems in adults and children. Consistent with Kilrush Community School's responsibility to promote the health of students, teachers, staff and all members of the school community, smoking is prohibited everywhere in school buildings, on school property and at school events.

Under the Public Health (Tobacco) Acts 2002 and 2004 the school is required to operate a smoke-free policy and to ensure a smoke-free environment for staff, pupils, parents and visitors to the school.

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the smoke-free policy is to prohibit the use or distribution of tobacco products in school buildings, on school grounds and at all school affiliated functions.

Scope of the Policy

The smoke-free policy applies to all staff, whether employed on a permanent, part-time or temporary contract, or from an agency or representative of another organisation visiting the school.

The smoke-free policy applies to all students whether enrolled with the school or visiting from another school.

The smoke-free policy applies to all visitors, including parents or other persons accompanying students to the school.

The smoke-free policy covers all of the premises including surrounding grounds.

The smoke-free policy applies to all vehicles hired on behalf of the school.

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 school 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.

Communication of the Smoke-Free Policy

The Board of Management and the Principal, or his/her Deputy, will ensure that the smoke-free policy is communicated to all staff, students and groups using the school through employee and student handbooks, parent/guardian notification, general public notification.

Signs will be positioned at the entrances to the school and at other prominent locations stating that smoking is prohibited in all areas.

The Principal, Deputy Principal, teachers and non-teaching staff will be responsible for ensuring that visitors to the premises are made aware of the smoke-free policy.

Enforcement of the Smoke-Free Policy

Enforcement of the smoke-free policy is the responsibility of the Board of Management, Principal and each member of staff.

Failure to comply with the smoke-free policy by members of staff or students is a disciplinary matter and will be dealt with through the established disciplinary procedures.

A student found to be in breach of this policy will be advised of the dangers of smoking. His/her parents/guardians will be informed of this. A student found to be repeatedly ignoring this Policy will be dealt with under the School Code of Behaviour.

His/her name may also be reported to the Senior Environmental Health Officer of the Mid-Western Health Board.

A student found to be in repeated breach of this policy may be suspended for a period not in excess of three school days and his/her parents/guardians will be informed, and a report regarding same may be forwarded to the Senior Environmental Health Officer of the Mid-Western Health Board. A suspension for smoking may be repeated for a period not in excess of three school days.

Visitors to the school in breach of the smoke free policy will be informed of the policy and requested to comply with it. If there is a subsequent failure to comply with the smoke-free policy they will be asked to leave the premises. Failure to leave may result in the Gardai being contacted.

Support for Smoking Cessation

Help and support on stopping smoking can be obtained by ringing the National Quit Line on 1850 201 203. This is available daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Smoke-Free Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and revised if and when deemed appropriate by the Board of Management.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

**Sr. K. Conway,
Chairperson – B.o.M.**