



Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin Smoke-Free Workplace Policy

1. General

1.1 Scope: This policy applies to all students, staff, consultants, service-users, contractors of and visitors to Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin.

1.2 Context: This policy has been devised following consultation with all members of the school community. It should be read in conjunction with the school's Health and Safety Policy, *Code of Behaviour*, and DES Circular M 25/04 Prohibition on Smoking in all Workplaces.

1.3 Rationale: Second-hand smoke is also known as Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) or passive smoking is the 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 second-hand smoke and this policy has been developed to protect all students, staff, consultants, service users, contractors and visitors from exposure to smoke, and to ensure compliance with legal obligations and to ensure a safe working environment.

1.4 E-Cigarettes

While e-cigarettes produce vapour rather than smoke, Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin also prohibits "vaping" or smoking of e-cigarettes. For the purpose of this policy "e-cigarettes" shall be treated in the same manner as tobacco cigarettes and the whole policy shall apply.

2. Policy Content

2.1 Objectives

It is the policy of Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin that all of its work spaces are smoke-free and that all employees and students have a right to work and learn in a smoke-free environment. Smoking is prohibited throughout the school grounds with no exceptions. This policy applies to all students, staff, consultants, service-users and visitors. In addition it is also the policy of Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin that students are not permitted to smoke within the grounds of the school, while wearing the school uniform and/or on all school trips/activities.

2.2 Implementation

Responsibility for policy implementation rests with the Principal, Deputy Principal or other person, for the time being, in charge of the school. All staff have an obligation to adhere to, and facilitate the implementation of this policy. As part of their duty of care to students and colleagues, all staff members share in the responsibility of implementing this policy. Students have an obligation to adhere to and facilitate the implementation of this policy.

All staff shall be made aware of their role in the implementation and monitoring of the policy.

3. Non- Compliance with the Policy

3.1 Infringements by staff and/or students shall be addressed by the school management. Staff, consultants, service-users, contractors and visitors who contravene the law prohibiting smoking in the workplace are also liable to prosecution.

3.2 Procedures if a person smokes in contravention Section 47 of the Public Health (Tobacco) Acts which prohibits smoking in the workplace:

- Attention is drawn to the “No Smoking” signs and the relevant person is advised he/she is committing an offence by smoking on the premises.
- Advice is given to the person that it is in contravention of the law for the school to allow a person to smoke.
- Advice is given to the person that the school has a smoke-free policy to ensure a safe working environment for employees and students.
- Should the person continue to smoke advice is given to her/him that he/she are in breach of school rules and that disciplinary sanctions will have to be implemented.
- Violation of the smoke free policy will invoke disciplinary procedures. Action will be taken in line with the procedures used for violation of any other health and safety procedure in the school.
- Violation of the smoke free policy by non-school personnel e.g. visitors, contractors, suppliers should be dealt with in accordance with the DES Circular M 25/04 Prohibition on Smoking in all Workplaces.
- When a student is in breach of the rules relating to smoking, discipline procedures according to the Code of Behaviour will be applied. A Substance Misuse Report form will be completed and parents/guardians shall be informed. All cases related to smoking will be reported to the Principal.

3.3 Smoking Cessation

Information on how to obtain help quitting smoking is available from the National Smokers Quit Line on call save 1850 201203 or the Health Promotion Department of local Health Boards.

This Policy was adopted by the Board of Management on October 17th, 2017.

It was reviewed on February 1st 2022.

It has been made available to all members of the school community.

It will be reviewed on an annual basis and/or as deemed necessary.