



*Lisnagarvey High School
Circular No*

LISNAGARVEY HIGH SCHOOL ANTI SMOKING POLICY

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Introduction

Cigarette smoking is the greatest single cause of illness and premature death in the UK.

About 100,000 people in the UK die each year due to smoking. Smoking-related deaths are mainly due to cancers, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and heart disease.

About half of all smokers die from smoking-related diseases. A long-term smoker's life's expectancy, on average, is about 10 years less than a non-smoker. In the UK about 8 in 10 non-smokers live past the age of 70, but only about half of long-term smokers live past 70. The younger a person is when they start smoking, the more likely they are to smoke for longer and to die early from smoking (<http://www.patient.co.uk/health/smoking-the-facts#>).

Second-hand Smoke

People who breathe in secondhand smoke are at risk of getting the same health conditions as smokers, particularly lung cancer and heart disease. For example, breathing in secondhand smoke increases a non-smoker's risk of developing lung cancer or heart disease by about 25% (<http://www.nhs.uk/chq/Pages/2344.aspx?CategoryID=53>).

Lisnagarvey High School acknowledges that second-hand tobacco smoke is both a public and work place health hazard and has therefore adopted this no-smoking policy.

E-Cigarettes

The safety of e-cigarettes has not been scientifically demonstrated as the chemicals used have not been fully disclosed and there is no adequate data on their emissions.

There is a lack of peer-reviewed evidence on their value in helping smokers cut down or stop.

Concerns that e-cigarettes might reinforce the smoking habit as they are designed to closely mimic smoking actions (<http://bma.org.uk/search?query=e%20cigarettes>).

Aims of the Policy

To protect non-smokers from the adverse health effects of environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace; protection also applies to the use of e-cigarettes.

- To demonstrate the school's commitment to promoting the health of pupils and staff.
- To provide information and advice for those who wish to stop smoking.
- Guarantee the right of non-smokers to breathe in air free from tobacco smoke.
- To comply with both Health and Safety and Employment Legislation.
- Raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke.

Employer Statutory Obligations

Employers are required by the Health & Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 to ensure; so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of their employees and others who use their premises.

Article 4(2) (e) of the Order requires that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the working environment is safe, without risks to health and adequate with regards to facilities and arrangements for employees. In addition, under Article 8, employees must take reasonable care of their own health, safety and welfare, as well as that of others and must co-operate with their employers' efforts to discharge any statutory health and safety duties placed upon them. Such statutory duties are reinforced by a common law duty of care.

Restrictions of Smoking

Lisnagarvey High School, in line with The Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, is a non-smoking environment where all staff - teaching, peripatetic, support and non-teaching as well as visitors and pupils may not smoke while on school premises, entrances or school grounds at any time, by any person regardless of their status or business with the school.

The prohibition of tobacco or e-cigarette smoking will apply during related school activities undertaken outside school premises, e.g. Educational Visits, residential trips etc.

When school premises are used for purposes other than school related activities the school smoking policy that includes a restriction on the use of e-cigarettes will remain in operation.

Pupils

The present rules forbidding tobacco smoking while on school premises or while engaged in school related activities outside the school will remain unchanged and the use of e-cigarettes is now also forbidden. The school will consider suspension regarding the use of prohibited substances and e-cigarettes. Pupils found using or in possession of these items will fall into the school sanctions as stated below. Pupils found in possession of cigarettes, lighters/matches or e-cigarettes will have these items confiscated.

Visitors

All visitors, contractors and deliverers are required to abide by the no-smoking policy. Staff members are expected to inform visitors of the no-smoking policy.

Vehicles

Smoking is not permitted in the school mini bus.

Disciplinary Action

Failure to comply with this policy will result in:

- **Students** - School sanctions as set out in the School's Behavioural Policy (3-5 days suspension).
- **Employees** - As laid out in current Disciplinary Procedures Policy.

- **Visitors** - Ask to leave school premises.

Monitoring and Reviewing

The school smoking policy will be monitored at least once per year by the Senior Leadership Team of the school in consultation with staff and a report made to the Board of Governors. The Policy will be reviewed and, if appropriate, revised.

Designated Smoking Area

Lisnagarvey High School does not currently have a designated smoking area. This shall be at the discretion of the Board of Governors as to whether school resources may be deployed for the creation of such a facility. It is not a statutory duty that such a facility be provided.

Support for Smokers

Advice and support to give up smoking can be obtained from the website www.want2stop.info, or The NHS Smoke-free helpline on 0300 123 1044. Further advice and support, relevant to the local area can be found on the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust's website (www.setrust.hscni.net).

Policy Implementation

- Members of staff will be given a copy of the Policy which will become part of their contract of employment.
- Parents will be informed of the introduction of the Policy.
- Members of staff shall inform school visitors of the Policy.
- Signs and notices shall be posted in prominent positions throughout the school premises.