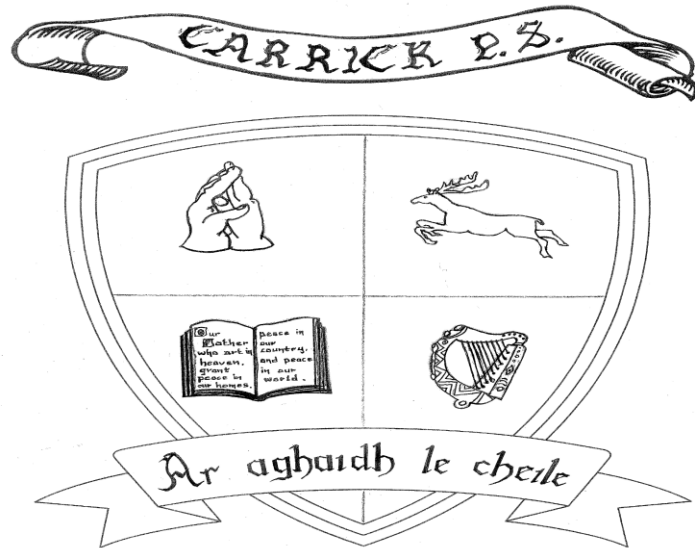


# Carrick Primary School



## Smoking Policy

March 2024

# **VISION STATEMENT, MISSION STATEMENT AND SCHOOL AIMS**

## **Vision Statement**

Forward Together: Ar Aghaidh le Chéile.

## **Mission Statement**

In Carrick Primary School we aim to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment, in which to realise and celebrate the academic and non-academic potential of all our pupils. We expect our pupils to work hard and encourage parents to assist us in laying the important foundations for future learning.

## **School Aims**

### **In our school we aim to:**

- Create a safe, enjoyable learning environment, in which effective learning is facilitated and quality teaching is provided;
- Implement all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- Help our pupils to develop a positive attitude towards life and a love of learning;
- Value, respect and nurture every child in our care;
- Encourage pupils to respect themselves and others, and to support and care for one another;
- Equip our children with the necessary life skills, to enable them to participate in a fast changing society;
- Develop and strengthen each pupil's understanding and love of Catholic values, by promoting the Catholic ethos throughout the school;
- Endorse the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child and work towards the implementation of policies and practices which reflect the Convention;
- Involve the parents, Board of Governors and wider community in the life of the school, and in the holistic development of the children in our care.

## **EMPLOYING AUTHORITY POLICY STATEMENT**

Carrick Primary School is committed to the active promotion and ultimate achievement of the goal of a smoke free working environment for all its employees, consistent with the objective of health protection and promotion within an educational setting. The use of electronic cigarettes was not covered in the legislation as they did not exist at that time. However, this policy affords e-cigarettes the same restrictions as tobacco, for the following reasons:

- 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 to cut down or to stop smoking; and
- 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>

The policy has been developed in accordance with the recognised Unions.

### **1. SMOKING POLICY OBJECTIVES**

- 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 for reasons outlined in paragraph 1 above.
- To demonstrate the school's commitment to promoting the health of pupils, staff, Governors and visitors to the school.
- To provide information and advice for those who wish to stop smoking.

### **SUMMARY OF 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 as regards 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.

- The Health and Safety Inspectorate recommends that all employers should have a specific written policy on smoking in the workplace which gives priority to the needs of non-smokers who do not wish to breathe tobacco smoke. The same principle applies to the use of e-cigarettes for reasons outlined in paragraph 1.

## **SCHOOL SMOKING POLICY**

- Carrick Primary School has been a non-smoking environment since March 2016.
- All staff including teachers, peripatetic teachers, non-teaching staff, students, coaches and volunteers, as well as visitors and pupils may not smoke tobacco or e-cigarettes while on school premises. The prohibition of tobacco or e-cigarette smoking will also apply during related school activities, undertaken outside school premises, e.g. Educational Visits.
- The failure to comply with the provisions as outlined in this Policy, will be dealt with through the School's Disciplinary Procedures.

## **POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

- Members of staff and volunteers will be given a copy of this Policy which will become part of their contract of employment.
- Parents will be informed about the introduction of the Policy.
- Members of staff shall inform school visitors about the Policy.
- Signs and notices shall be posted in prominent positions throughout the school premises, to notify everyone that the school is a non-smoking environment.

## **SCHOOL PREMISES UTILISED OUTSIDE NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS**

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

## MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The school's Smoking Policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if required, by the school's Leadership Team, in consultation with staff, pupils, parents and Governors and revised where appropriate.
- Additional information is available from the Employing Authority's Health and Safety Officer.

Signed: Dr A Cassidy (Principal)

Signed: Mr G Murdock (Chairperson of Board of Governors)

Date: March 2024

Review Date: March 2024