

St. Mary's National School, Croom, Co.Limerick

# 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 this 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, in school leased or owned vehicles and at all school affiliated functions.

## Scope of the Policy

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

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

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

## 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 products.

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 when the school is not in session.*

## Communication of the Smoke-Free Policy

The principal, will ensure that the smoke free policy is communicated to all staff, students and groups using the school through staff, employee, student parent/guardian and 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 staff of the school, teaching and non-teaching, will be responsible for ensuring that visitors to the premises are made aware of smoke-free policy.

## Enforcement of the Smoke-Free Policy

Enforcement of the smoke-free policy is the responsibility of the 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. Infringements of the policy should be reported to the principal.

## Smoke-Free Policy Review

The policy will be reviewed on the basis of need.