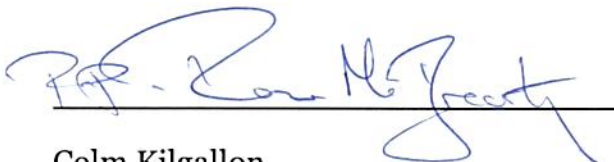


VAPING POLICY 2023

Ardgillan College

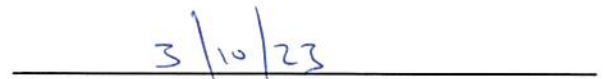
Date for review: On an on-going basis



Colm Kilgallon

Chairperson

Board of Management



Date ratified by the Board of Management

MISSION STATEMENT

Ardgillan Community College promotes a happy and caring community where students are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential. Teamwork, respect and the pursuit of excellence form cornerstones of the college philosophy. The ethos of the college is based on respect, tolerance and understanding while appreciating the diversity of our changing world. The college aims to provide a broad education for all students and to nurture their individual abilities and talents.

Ardgillan College's motto is 'Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh Sí' (Praise the young and they will flourish).

INTRODUCTION

The College promotes a happy and caring climate where students are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential. The health and safety of all of our students is our priority in Ardgillan College. We acknowledge the emerging concern posed by vaping as a risk to the health of children and young people.

Vaping refers to the use of an electronic cigarette, also known as an e-cigarette or ENDS (electronic nicotine delivery system). E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices. They heat nicotine mixed with flavourings and other chemicals to create an aerosol or vapour that the user inhales.

Vaping has become more common in recent years. Almost 1-in-20 people aged 15 years and older in Ireland vape. Vaping has also become more common among children and young people. Data from 2018 shows that about 1-in-10 children and young people aged 12 to 17 years old used an E-cigarette in the last 30 days. Data focused on 16 year olds, found 1-in-5 were using E-cigarettes in 2019 which is double what it was in 2015. Schools play an important role in protecting children and young people from vaping.

RISKS OF HARM

Risks of harm caused by vaping among children and young people Vaping is harmful for children and young people for many reasons:

- E-cigarette use has been linked with acute harms including poisonings, burns, fractures, lung injury and asthma exacerbations.
- Early evidence links E-cigarettes use to cardiovascular and respiratory tissue damage.
- E-cigarettes often contain nicotine, which is addictive and leads to dependence.

- Children and young people are especially vulnerable to the effects of nicotine on their developing brains including nicotine addiction, mood disorders, and lowering of impulse control.
- Other drugs such as alcohol, synthetic cannabinoids, and opiates can be added to E-liquids and consumed through vaping.
- Children and young people who use E-cigarettes are more likely to start smoking compared to those who never used E-cigarettes.
- Longer-term health effects of vaping are uncertain at this point in time.

LEGISLATION

The government are regulating to better protect children and young people from the harms of vaping. In 2022, the drafting of the Public Health (Tobacco and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Bill was approved by government. The Bill will ban the sale of E-cigarettes to those under the age of 18 and strengthen regulation of the retail of tobacco and E-cigarette products.

PROTECTING OUR STUDENTS

Including E-cigarettes in substance misuse policies and procedures is an important step which we have taken to protect children and young people. We have installed vape alarms in all of our toilet facilities.

CONSEQUENCES

If a student is found to have been vaping on the school premises, in our school uniform or while involved in school related activities it will result in an immediate suspension. If they are found to be using a vape which contains suspected illegal substances the vape will be confiscated and given to An Garda Síochána for testing. If the presence of an illegal substance is confirmed our Substance Abuse Policy and Code of Positive Behaviour will be duly followed.

RESOURCES

A range of resources for schools from the HSE Education Programme were updated and enhanced to include new information on E-cigarettes. A 'QUIT4Youth' Resource has recently been developed for local HSE Health and Wellbeing services to support them in

their response to the needs of young people who smoke and use E-cigarettes. More information can be found here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/tobaccocontrol/resources/e-cigarette-resources.html>