

Columba College



Anti-Vaping Policy 2023/2024

Date Ratified: _____

Signature: _____ Chairperson of the Board

Signature: _____ Principal

Date of Review: _____

In accordance with the requirements with the Public Health Tobacco and Nicotine Inhaling Products Act 2015 (updated in June 2023) and in accordance with Columba College Safety Statement –under the Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. Columba College is committed to addressing the needs of the school in relation to illegal substances and the use of E cigarettes.

It is necessary that all involved work together to implement this policy. It is vital that parents/guardians actively work with the school to implement this policy to ensure their children's health and safety.

In this policy "Illegal substances' are defined as any substance which changes the way the body functions, mentally, physically or emotionally.

As stated in the school's mission statement and the ETB ethos, the aim of Columba College is to provide a learning environment which will allow each student to reach their full potential while promoting an atmosphere of care, equality and respect, and fairness for the whole school community.

This is the ethos which guides this policy.

- The School does not accept the possession, use or supply of any tobacco related products including E-Cigarettes, 'Vaping' or equivalent, in the school or on school activities by any student.
- The School does not accept the possession, use or supply of any E-Cigarette related products such as legal or illegal, vape liquids /juice in the school or on school activities by any student.

Education and Prevention Strategies

Columba College is committed to providing Tobacco and Drug Education Programme for all students through our wellbeing programmes that are offered through SPHE and CSPE to our junior classes. Outside speakers are used where appropriate to reinforce the work done in class.

The HSE and ASH Ireland provide education programmes suitable for senior classes to include TY and LCA.

The purpose of these education programmes are:

- To increase the self-esteem and confidence of our students.
- To equip our students with personal and social skills.
- To enable our students to make informed, healthy and responsible decisions.

Sanctions:

Situations of suspected use, possession or supply of E Cigarettes or vapes must be recorded and reported immediately.

Vapes will be confiscated and parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be informed by the Principal, Deputy Principal or any member of the Senior Management team.

The school reserves the right to suspend or remove temporarily from the school any student involved in vaping.

Records of all incidents are kept on student files.

Students suspected using illegal substances will be involved in a complete investigation of the incident. Furthermore, the school's Code of Behaviour will apply and following due investigation it may be necessary for the Board of Management to exclude such a student in very serious circumstances. The Principal will inform the Gardai if any incident involves illegal activity.

Communication of policy:

This policy will be communicated to students, parents, guardians and staff. Signs indicating this policy and sanctions associated with same will be prominently displayed in relevant areas around the school.