



Background

The School is committed to providing safe and healthy environments for students, employees and visitors. All facilities and properties (e.g., buildings, sports and play fields, buses, vehicles) that are operated and/or leased by the School shall be smoke-free environments.

In accordance with the Tobacco Reduction Act and the Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act, the Calgary Girls Charter School prohibits tobacco and E-cigarette use and possession by anyone under the age of 18 years of age in schools, on school grounds, or at school-related activities. Possession and/or use of cannabis (marijuana) and other substances such as illicit and synthetic drugs (e.g., flakka) associated with smoking or vaping are strictly prohibited.

Employees are expected to model the expectations of this Administrative Procedure.

The only exception is the use of tobacco for Indigenous Smudging Ceremonies. See Appendix A to this Administrative Procedure.

Procedures

1. All School property (including buildings, vehicles and outdoor spaces), whether owned or leased, shall be tobacco and smoke-free.
2. All school sponsored activities must be tobacco and smoke-free.
3. All users of School operated buildings including students, employees and visitors are expected to comply with this Administrative procedure including community users of School operated facilities.
4. The Principal shall ensure that all students, staff, parents, visitors and community user-groups are made aware of the tobacco and smoke-free requirements.
5. With the prior approval of the Principal, the use of tobacco may be permitted as part of a cultural/religious/ceremonial event.

Reference:
Education Act s. 27, 52, 53, 54, 197, 222
Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act
Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Regulation AR 13/2003
Tobacco Reduction Act



Background

The Calgary Girls Charter School respects the cultural traditions of the Aboriginal community and recognizes that smudging includes the use of herbs and tobacco as part of the traditional way of life. Therefore smudging / pipe ceremonies are permitted subject to proper safety measures.

Smudging is an Aboriginal tradition which involves the burning of safe, sweetgrass and/or cedar. Smudge produces a distinct odor. The smoke associated is minimal and lasts a very short time. A smudge is burned to cleanse the body, mind, spirit of negative thoughts and feelings and is considered to cleanse physically and spiritually.

Procedures

1. The Principal must give prior approval for a smudging to occur in school operated facilities or grounds.
2. In giving consent, the Principal will take the following steps:
 - 2.1 Inform staff of the importance of smudging and pipe ceremonies as part of traditional Aboriginal culture.
 - 2.2 Require staff to follow associated protocols.
 - 2.3 Designate a well-ventilated area for a smudging ceremony.
 - 2.4 Ensure a fully charged fire extinguisher is readily available and that staff are instructed on its proper use.
3. When a smudging ceremony is completed, the materials must be fully extinguished and disposed of in an appropriate, respectful manner:
 - 3.1 Smoking or warm smudging materials need to burn out on their own
 - 3.2 Smudge remnants and matches are to be placed in a tin can and saved.
 - 3.3 Smudge remnants are never to be placed in a trash receptacle.
4. Tobacco is used in pipe ceremonies and only by a pipe carrier.
5. In approving a smudge and/or pipe ceremony, the Principal must provide opportunity for students to be excused from participating or observing as the ceremony/smudge is a spiritual tradition in the Aboriginal community.