



The division allows each school or site to determine the location in the building where smudging will occur.

Each school or site will do their best to ensure that smudging does not pose a health risk to students or staff, particularly students or staff with severe asthma and respiratory issues. Communicating with parents, staff and students prior to holding a smudge and holding the smudge in a well-ventilated room can help to accommodate such concerns.

Each school or site will provide appropriate signage designating the location as a smudging site. Some examples of appropriate wording for signage in facilities include:

- This is a smudging environment and smudging occurs regularly in this facility.
- Smudging occurs in this room. The next time that a smudge will take place is _____ (time and date) _____.
- Smudging is part of the school and classroom function. All are welcome to participate as a matter of choice.

Smudging may take place in a classroom, gym or outdoors, depending on the guidance from the person who is leading the smudge.

The school and community should remember that at one time First Nations cultural traditions were illegal and smudging was a practice that had to be done in secret. Now, the most important consideration is that when a smudge is lit it is done with respect to those who choose not to be involved, as well as those who choose to be involved. Those who choose to smudge need to feel welcome and respected in learning environments.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cross Reference: | | |
| Date Adopted: August 1, 2017 | Date Amended: | Board Motion(s): |
| Procedure: IMDE | Guidelines: IMDE-R | Exhibit: IMDE-E2 |