

Smoking and Vaping Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the College on 8762 6839.

PURPOSE

Several studies reveal that those who take up smoking in their teens are more likely to be long-term smokers and suffer from smoking related illnesses. Lung development is altered by smoking at a young age. Smoking causes reduced lung function and impaired lung growth during adolescence. Young smokers' lungs stop growing earlier, they attain lower maximal lung function, and their lung function declines earlier. This reduced lung growth can increase the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis later in life. Early quitting may therefore be particularly beneficial to potentially avoid these effects on growing lungs (Source: www.tobaccoinaustralia.org.au).

International evidence is emerging of a possible link between the use of e-cigarettes and lung disease. This includes severe lung disease requiring intensive care treatment (Source: www.health.gov.au). According to the Lung Foundation Australia, the long-term health impacts of vaping are still unknown, but what has been uncovered about traditional cigarettes in recent decades has experts concerned e-cigarettes could lead to the next generation of lung disease and lung cancer.

By law, smoking and vaping are banned within the grounds of and within four metres of an entrance to all schools. This ensures that children and young people can enter and leave schools without being exposed to harmful second-hand smoke and vapour (www.education.vic.gov.au).

SCOPE

- To maintain a smoke-free environment for the health and safety of the whole school community, students, staff members and/or parents will not smoke on school premises, at school functions and during school-based activities.
- To have a consistent approach to managing students found smoking or vaping or in the company of smokers/vapers.

Students found smoking/vaping:

First Offence - Parents notified, Two After School detentions with reflective session, SEL to refer to the Flowchart for Students found Vaping.

Second Offence - Parents notified, Internal Suspension with reflective suspension document to be completed.

Third Offence - Parents notified, External Suspension with reflective suspension document to be completed while at home. Parent meeting for Return to school plan.

Smoking and Vaping Policy

Students in possession of smokes/vapes :

First Offence - Parents notified, Two After School detentions with reflective session, SEL to refer to the Flowchart for Students found Vaping.

Second Offence - Parents notified, Internal Suspension with reflective suspension document to be completed.

Third Offence - Parents notified, External Suspension with reflective suspension document to be completed while at home. Parent meeting for Return to school plan.

Students in the company of smokers/vapers:

First Offence - One After School detentions with reflective session, Students given 'Secondhand Smoke' fact sheet from Smarter than Smoking or 'Passive Smoking – E-cigarettes' fact sheet from healthdirect.gov.au.

Second Offence - Parents notified, 2 After School Detentions with reflective sessions

Third Offence - Parents notified, and individualised plan put in place

Students selling e-cigarettes at school:

NB: Selling e-cigarettes to a person under 18 years is against the law.

First Offence – Parents notified ,External Suspension and 1 week yard restrictions . Consultation with Victorian police

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), commonly known as 'vaping'

In Victoria it is illegal for any person aged 18 or over to obtain, possess or use nicotine e-cigarettes, or e-cigarette cartridges containing nicotine, or nicotine liquids for use in a vaporiser, without a prescription. It is illegal to sell e-cigarettes to, or buy e-cigarettes for, any person aged under 18 years whether or not the e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Whilst it is not unlawful for a person to possess or use e-cigarettes that do not contain nicotine, it is unlawful to use them on school premises or within 4 metres of a school entrance.

Links:

Department of Education's Smoking and Vaping Ban

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/smoking-vaping-ban/policy>

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2022
Consultation	Consultation with: Mental Practitioner Principal Team Student Engagement Leaders
Approved by	Principal – Jo Cucchiara
Next scheduled review date	1/22/2024