

SMOKING, ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to support public health objectives and ensure there is no smoking or use of e-cigarettes (commonly known as 'vaping'), or other drugs on school premises (buildings and grounds), or within 4 metres of school entrances or at school sanctioned events held off-premises.

In addition, leadership and staff acknowledge the importance in reducing harm from tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcohol and other drugs. Providing a smoke-, vape- and drug-free environment and promoting low alcohol consumption contributes to the overall health and wellbeing of the students, staff and families related to the school.

This policy confirms our commitment to:

- ensuring a smoke-, vape- and drug-free environment for students, families, staff, volunteers and visitors
- promoting low alcohol consumption to our service community
- delivering tobacco, e-cigarette, alcohol and other drugs education in one or more learning key areas of the curriculum as a part of a whole school approach to health and wellbeing (e.g. developing knowledge, resilience and help-seeking skills of students)
- providing a safe, inclusive and empowering school environment
- implementing strategies to prevent and minimise harm
- dealing with drug use (licit and illicit) as a health and safety issue
- establishing supportive procedures to respond to drug-related incidents.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students (including those 18 years of age or older), staff and all visitors to the College.

It also extends to activities or events attended by students which are held off-site or at another premises including camps, excursions, celebratory events etc.

It is also a requirement that all community members who use facilities at the College for hiring purposes adhere to these requirements (as per hiring agreement).

POLICY

In Victoria, a person must not smoke or use e-cigarettes on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises. This is directly stated in [the DET Smoking and Vaping Ban 2022](#).

DEFINITIONS

Tobacco product: Any device or product that contains organic matter that is heated or burned to create aerosol or smoke that is inhaled by the user.

E-cigarette product: Any electronic device that is intended to be used to create an aerosol for inhalation and any liquid, or product containing liquid, intended to be used in or with an electronic device to create an aerosol for inhalation.

Drug: Any substance taken to change the way the body and/or mind functions.

Alcohol: A depressant drug that slows down activity in the central nervous system.

IMPLEMENTATION

Promote a healthy physical environment and healthy culture

- Ensure that the whole school community is aware that smoking and vaping are not permitted on school premises and within 4 metres of school entrances. This applies to students, staff, teachers, contractors, parents/guardians or the wider community and visitors to the College.
- There is smoke and vape-free signage that can be easily seen and understood by the whole community.
- Remind the school community that smoking, vaping, drugs and alcohol are not permitted at school-sanctioned events held off school premises.
- If external organisations use the premises, a formal agreement ensures the school premises are smoke/vape-free.

Teaching, learning and management of onsite incidents

- Make tobacco and vaping education information available to the school community (including information about accessing support services) including students, staff and families.
- Culturally diverse smoking and vaping information is available to students and families
- Confiscate smoking paraphernalia and only return to parents/guardians on request
- Install and monitor anti-smoking detectors in student toilets and other high-risk areas
- Students who want to quit smoking or vaping, are supported to seek information, advice and treatment referrals.

Support Staff

- Staff who want to quit smoking or vaping, are supported and have access to information and resources about appropriate agencies.
- Staff who smoke are encouraged to take appropriate hygiene measures, such as thoroughly washing their hands, after smoking or vaping so that students are not exposed to second-hand smoke or e-cigarette aerosol.
- Resources about the health risks related to smoking and vaping, high-risk drinking and taking drugs are available to staff on the Compass Staff portal.

Family and Community Partnerships

- Staff and families are encouraged to engage in low-risk alcohol behaviours and abstain from taking drugs, particularly while around students.
- Events, celebrations, awards, gifts and fundraising are encouraged to be free of alcoholic products.

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR BREACHES

- Any student who breaches the drug and alcohol policy while onsite at school or on a school-sanctioned event will be managed through the Student Engagement Policy – high level behaviour.

Consequences include; suspension from school, potential police involvement and other risk management strategies.

Supports include; Student Support Group Meeting (SSG) involving parent/guardians, wellbeing support, education and reflection tasks and potential referral to external support services eg. YSAS

LINKS FOR SUPPORT

[DE Health and Wellbeing Policy](#)

[QUIT Victoria](#)

[Aboriginal QUIT Line](#)

[Multicultural QUIT resources](#)

[Drug and Alcohol Online Counselling](#)

[Positive Choices](#)

[DrinkWise](#)

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICY DOCUMENTS

- [Tobacco Act 1987](#)
- [DE Smoking and Vaping Ban](#)
- [Liquor Control Reform Act 1998](#)
- [DE Smoking and Vaping Ban](#)
- [DE School Policy and Advisory Guide: Alcohol and Other Drugs - Students](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#)
- [DE Alcohol at School Events Policy](#)
- [DE Drug Education](#)

OTHER RELATED SCHOOL POLICIES

- [Camp and Excursion Policy](#)
- Student Engagement Policy
- [DE School Council Hirers Agreement](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Policy last reviewed	September 2023
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next Scheduled Review	2025

¹ DEECD, 2009, Smoke Free Schools Tobacco Prevention and Management Guidelines for Victorian Schools <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/teachers/health/manageguide.pdf>

¹ Australian Drug Information Network 2012, Glossary <https://adf.org.au/resources/did-glossary/>