

PREAMBLE

MPSC recognises the danger smoking, passive smoking and vaping causes to health, as well as the need for the school and its staff to provide positive role models to students. For the protection of staff and students, and in accordance with Victorian laws, smoking and vaping are not permitted within any area of the school property, or within four meters of an entrance to the school, nor at any school related activity or function by students, staff or visitors.

AIMS

- To be consistent with the requirements of the DET and State Laws.
- To ensure that all students and staff are made aware of the dangers of smoking and vaping and the effects on the body.
- To ensure that a fair and reasonable process for responding to incidents of smoking or vaping is developed, understood and consistently followed.

IMPLEMENTATION

- As per Department requirements, smoking and vaping are banned within four metres of an entrance to all primary and secondary schools in Victoria, and within the school grounds, under an amendment to the Tobacco Act 1987.
- No Smoking signs are erected and maintained at various locations throughout the College including entrances. This policy will be communicated to the community via the newsletter and Pastoral Program.
- Possession and/or use of cigarettes or E-cigarettes by students on school grounds, or outside school grounds whilst wearing school uniform is completely prohibited.
- Student use of cigarettes or E-cigarettes whilst on school related activities such as camps or excursions is completely prohibited.
- Staff members and visiting members of the community are not permitted to smoke or vape on school property and are encouraged to be positive role models and to not display or promote their personal habits. The school will encourage Department employees who require support complying with the ban to either:
 - call the Quitline on 13 7848. Quitline is a friendly, confidential telephone service. A Quitline counsellor is trained to listen carefully and provide practical advice tailored for each person.
 - use the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) or contact LifeWorks (1300 361 008)
- The health risks associated with smoking and vaping will form part of the Pastoral Care curriculum for all students. Informed choices about smoking and vaping will feature amongst the harm minimisation strategies employed in the school's Pastoral Care curriculum and Welfare system. If necessary arrange [training with Quit Victoria](#) on how to support staff and young people to quit.

SPECIFIC RESPONSES

Students found smoking or vaping, in possession of cigarettes or E-cigarettes, buying cigarettes or E-cigarettes from other students or supplying cigarettes or E-cigarettes to other students, or as a bystander in the company of smokers/vapers, anywhere in the school environment or whilst travelling to or from school, will be liable to a range of consequences dependent on the circumstance and whether or not previous offences have been recorded, at the discretion of the Principal.

First incident:

- Inform parents via phone call
- Official warning
- Incident report recorded
- Educative conversation with the Engagement Team member
- Community service
- Exclusion from area where smoking/vaping occurred

Second incident:

- Inform parents/guardian via phone call and formal letter
- Incident report recorded
- Referral to welfare team for counselling
- QUIT information supplied to student
- Exclusion from area where smoking/vaping occurred
- After school detention issued by Engagement Team member

Third incident:

- Incident report recorded
- Formal letter to parent/guardian
- Suspension from school
- Student Support Group convened with the student, parent/guardian, Engagement Team member and Student Welfare Coordinator

Continued

If the behaviour continues the student will be suspended for each further incident and support outlined above to continue. In extreme circumstances a student may be expelled.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- *Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy*
- *Student Engagement and Wellbeing Guidelines*
- *Student Behaviour Management Policy*
- *DET Smoking/Vaping Ban 2021*
- *Smoke Free Schools Tobacco Prevention and Management Guidelines for Victorian Schools. Tobacco Prevention Education Curriculum Materials – A Classroom Approach for Teachers: Years 5 to 9*
- *Drug Education Training Materials*
- *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 (Vic)*
- *Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)*
- *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic)*
- *Tobacco Act 1987 (Vic)*

RATIFIED DATE

This Policy was ratified by School Council on 23 March 2021.

REVIEW DATE

This Policy will be reviewed as part of the College's three-year review cycle.