



# SMOKING AND VAPING 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') on Mount Waverley Secondary College premises (buildings and grounds), within 4 metres of the college entrances or at college sanctioned events held off-premises.

## OUTCOME

To effectively manage the health and safety of all staff and students at Mount Waverley Secondary College.

## REQUIREMENTS

- 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.
- Inhaling vapour from an e-cigarette is known as 'vaping'. When using an e-cigarette, the user inhales and exhales the vapour, which can look similar to smoking a cigarette. The prohibition on smoking includes the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) and applies whether or not the e-cigarette contains nicotine.
- Cigarettes and e-cigarettes cannot be sold to people under 18 years of age.
- It is a legislative requirement that schools display suitable 'No Smoking' signs at all pedestrian access points (entrances) to the school grounds. The legislation defines smoking to include the use of an e-cigarette.
- Smoking and vaping are also not permitted during school events and excursions held off school premises.
- Students who breach the policy will also be dealt with by the Student Code of Conduct.

The smoking and vaping ban applies to:

- anyone present on school premises during and outside of school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents or carers or the wider community, such as sporting groups
- all activities that take place on school premises, outside school hours care, cultural, sporting or recreational activities and school fetes



Principals or their delegate should:

- 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 may be achieved through the signage required at each entrance. If further measures are required (due to non-compliance), notices in the school newsletter, on the school website and direct communication with specific staff, students, parents/carers or visitors who are non-compliant may be required.
- remind the school community, when necessary, that smoking and vaping are not permitted at school-sanctioned events held off school premises
- encourage Department employees who require support complying with the ban to either:
  - call the Quitline on [13 7848](tel:137848). 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](tel:1300361008))
- if necessary, arrange [training with Quit Victoria](#) on how to support staff and young people to quit
- make tobacco education information available.

### **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 vapouriser, 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.

#### **Definitions**

##### **Electronic cigarettes**

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are electronic devices which heat and vaporise liquids that may or may not contain nicotine or flavouring agents. The vapour is inhaled, simulating the act of smoking. Use of e-cigarettes is commonly referred to as ‘vaping’.

#### **Relevant legislation**



- [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 \(Vic\)](#)