

POLICY: SCS22: Smoking and Vaping policy	Issued: March 2024
REVIEW: march 2025	Approved: Sue Holmes (Principal)



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact reception on 03 97552007

Policy

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

Summary

- In Victoria, a person must not smoke or vape on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises.
- The prohibition on smoking includes 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 must display suitable 'No smoking or vaping' signs at all pedestrian access points (entrances) to the school grounds. The legislation defines smoking to include e-cigarettes.
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted during school events and excursions held off school premises.
- Use or possession of an e-cigarette does not fall under any of the grounds for suspension of a student.

Details

Smoking and vaping ban

A person must not smoke cigarettes, including e-cigarettes (regardless of whether they contain nicotine) within school premises and within 4 metres of any pedestrian access to school premises. Smoking in these places is a fineable offence. 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 including pre-schools, kindergartens, outside school hours care, cultural, sporting or recreational activities and school fetes.

The department also bans smoking and vaping at school events and excursions held off school premises.

The [Department of Health website](#) has further advice, factsheets and diagrams to help schools define premises and pedestrian access points where smoking and vaping is banned.

'No Smoking or Vaping' signage requirement

Schools must:

- display 'No Smoking or Vaping' signs at each pedestrian access point to the school premises. Free 'No Smoking or Vaping' signs can be ordered and downloaded through the [Department of Health website](#)

- display the signs in such a prominent position at each entrance to make it clear that the area at or within 4 metres of that entrance is a ‘No Smoking or Vaping’ area.

Other actions

Principals or their delegate must 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.

It is recommended that principals or their delegate:

- remind the school community that smoking and vaping are not permitted at school-sanctioned events held off school premises
- where relevant remind staff that a person must not smoke or vape in a motor vehicle if a person under 18 years is also present in the motor vehicle
- encourage department employees who require support to comply with the ban to:
 - contact [Quitline](#) (calling [13 78 48](#), texting or requesting callback, online webchat) – Quitline is a friendly, confidential service with trained counsellors who provide practical advice tailored for each person
 - contact their general practitioner (GP)
 - use the [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) on [1300 361 008](#)
- make tobacco and vaping education, information and staff training available to support students not to smoke or vape – refer to the [Guidance](#) and [Resources tab](#).

The [Guidance tab](#) contains information and advice to support schools to prevent and manage student vaping in schools.

The [Resources tab](#) contains links and materials to assist schools, parents/carers and the whole school community to talk to children and young people about the dangers of smoking and vaping, and support young people who do smoke and/or vape to stop. Template wording is also available to assist schools in sharing information about smoking and vaping with parents and carers through their school communication channels (for example, their school newsletter).

School and area-based health, wellbeing and inclusion workforces can also assist with providing support to students who smoke or vape. These include:

- Doctors in Secondary School Program
- Secondary School Nursing Program
- Student Support Services Program
- Mental Health Practitioners in Schools
- Primary Welfare Officers
- Koorie Engagement Support Officers.

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’.

Related policies

- [Alcohol and Other Drugs – Students](#)
- [Managing and Reporting School Incidents \(including emergencies\)](#)

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 \(Vic\)](#)

Smoking and Vaping: Advice for Parents

Help your child understand the facts and the health risks of smoking and vaping.

What is smoking and vaping?

Smoking is burning something to breathe smoke into the lungs, such as a cigarette. Vaping is breathing in vapor from heated liquid.

Both smoking and vaping involve breathing in chemicals that can harm your health.

E-cigarettes or vapes heat liquid to create an aerosol that is breathed in, which is known as vaping. E-cigarettes can look like a highlighter, a pen or USB.

What is in vaping liquid?

There are no quality or safety standards for e-cigarettes, vapes or vaping liquids.

Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine which is harmful and addictive. Even those labelled nicotine-free can still contain nicotine.

The aerosol or vapor from e-cigarettes contains cancer-causing chemicals and heavy metals.

How vaping affects your child's body

Vaping can cause significant harm to your child's body:

- Short-term it can cause vomiting, nausea, coughing, shortness of breath, mouth irritation and asthma
- Long-term it can cause lung damage, heart disease and cancers.

E-cigarettes are still being studied, but most experts think it is likely vaping will cause lung and mouth cancers.

Nicotine is a poison that can make people sick if swallowed, and it has been linked to deaths of small children.

Exposing children and teens to nicotine can harm their brain development and lead to higher risk of dependence. Children and teens who use e-cigarettes are more than three times more likely to move onto smoking cigarettes.

E-cigarettes can also explode and catch fire.

Protecting your child

Research shows that children are less likely to smoke or vape if their primary role models (typically parents or carers) do not smoke or vape.

If you have found quitting difficult and still smoke or vape, share your experiences with your child. Ask your children for their support during your next quit attempt. If your child can witness how tough quitting can be, they may want to steer clear of smoking or vaping completely.

The best way to protect your children is to never smoke or vape in the house or other places where there may be children nearby. Smoking or vaping in a car when children are present is illegal. Passive exposure to e-cigarette aerosol can be damaging for children and young people.

Vaping laws

Smoking and vaping is banned in and around schools

The Tobacco Act 1987 bans smoking or vaping on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises. The smoking and vaping ban applies to:

Appendix 2:

SCHOOL SMOKING AND VAPING BAN

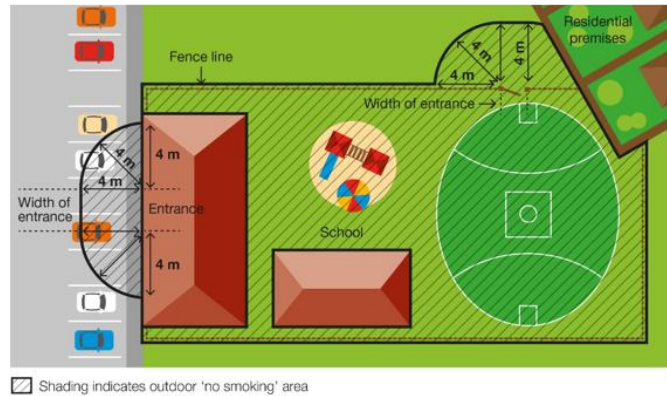
By law, smoking and vaping are banned within the grounds of, and within four metres of an entrance to, all childcare centres, kindergartens, preschools and schools.

WHERE THE BAN APPLIES

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 including pre-schools, kindergartens, outside school hours care, cultural, sporting or recreational activities and school fetes

Smoking and vaping are also banned within four metres of any part of a pedestrian access point (entrance) to the premises.



The diagram adjacent shows an example of where the smoking ban applies at a school.

WHEN THE BAN APPLIES

The smoking and vaping ban applies at all times, no matter whether the building or school grounds are being used for education purposes or other purposes. The ban therefore applies when other activities are taking place on the school grounds, such as fetes or sporting events, as well as during school hours.

WHY THE BAN EXISTS

To protect children and young people from the dangers of second-hand smoke and vapour

This ban ensures that children and young people can enter and leave these areas without being exposed to harmful second-hand smoke and vapour. Their health is particularly at risk because they have smaller airways and less developed immune systems compared to adults.

To reduce the role modelling of smoking and vaping behaviours around children and young people

Children and young people are more likely to view smoking and vaping as socially acceptable when they regularly see people doing it.

Banning smoking and vaping in areas used by children and young people will discourage children and young people from using tobacco or e-cigarette products.

Evaluation:

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and endorsed by School Council.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in and should be reviewed by

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Principal

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School Council President