

## SMOKING / VAPING POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact 0357830300.

### PURPOSE

To explain to Wallan Secondary College parents, carers, staff, and students the processes and procedures in place to support students identified as smoking and vaping on college grounds or whilst wearing the college uniform. This policy also ensures that Wallan Secondary College is compliant with the Victorian Education Department Policy on Smoking and Vaping.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers
- all students and their parents and carers.

### POLICY

#### School Statement

Wallan Secondary College will fully comply with Victorian Education Department Policy on Smoking and Vaping which states 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.

In response to a concerning increase in the number of teenagers who are accessing and using e-cigarette products, or vaping, particularly in and around schools, Wallan Secondary College in conjunction with the College Council made the decision to install sensor units in those areas where the use of these devices is most likely to be undertaken.

These units not only detect the presence of e-cigarette products or vaping but also cigarettes and the presence of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) which is the major psychoactive component chemical found in marijuana.

As a school community it is important that we educate our students on the dangers of vaping, and we ask that our families continue with that education at home.

E-cigarettes and e-liquids have not been safety tested by the TGA in Australia and should not be considered safe. E-cigarette devices come in many different shapes and sizes. They can look like traditional cigarettes, cigars or pipes. Some look everyday items commonly used by young people, such as pens or memory sticks (USBs). Some are even disguised as medical devices or concealed within clothing.

Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive especially for teens. E-cigarettes and e-cigarette liquid may contain nicotine, even if they have been labelled 'nicotine free'. One e-liquid pod can contain as much nicotine as a packet of cigarettes. Nicotine exposure during the teenage years can harm brain

development, which continues until about age 25. It can impact learning, memory, and attention, and increase risk for future addiction to other drugs.

## PROCESS

For any student found to be in possession of or using the before mentioned items the following process will be undertaken. Please note this also includes students who are found to be smoking or vaping off site whilst wearing the college uniform.

1. A COMPASS chronicle entry will be completed for each occasion identifying time/date of incident, number of offence (eg 1st, 2nd) and consequence given.
2. Parents/Carers will be advised of the incident and a notification will be made on COMPASS
3. An Iris Alert will be raised by the Assistant Principal for the relevant sub-school, on EduSafe online.
4. In the first instance of a student being involved, education regarding vaping/smoking will be provided to the parents/carers and the student. This may be in the form of educational materials or a conversation with the school nurse.
5. In the second or subsequent incident of a student being involved, the student will receive a consequence in line with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.

Students who damage or attempt to damage a sensor unit will receive a consequence in line with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- [https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact\\_sheets/E-cigarettes\\_and\\_teens/](https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/E-cigarettes_and_teens/)
- <https://www.quit.org.au/articles/teenvaping/>

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	January 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	January 2024