

Policy: SCS022 Smoking and Vaping Policy	Issued: November 2022
Review: November 2024	Approved: Sue Holmes (Principal)

## SMOKING AND VAPING POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school reception on 03 9755 2007.

### Policy

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 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 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.
- In Victoria, a person must not smoke in a motor vehicle if a person under 18 years is also present in the motor vehicle.
- Smoking and vaping are also not permitted during school events and excursions held off school premises.

### Details

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.

Schools must display '[No Smoking](#)' signs and enforce the ban to prohibit smoking and vaping on school premises (including buildings and grounds) and within 4 metres of school entrances.

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 not permitted during school events and excursions held off school premises.

Schools must:

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

- 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’ area.

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 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 in a motor vehicle if a person under 18 years is also present in the motor vehicle
- 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. Education resources are available in the [Resources tab](#).

## 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 vaporiser, 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.

## Resources and School Supports

The [Resources tab](#) contains guides to assist schools, parents 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 quit. 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:

- 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 \(Vic\)](#)

Approved by:	School Council
Approval Authority (Name & Date)	Sue Holmes (Principal) 24/11/2022
Responsible for Review	Principal – Policy and Planning Sub-Committee
Next Review Date	November 2024 (2 years)

**Appendix 1 & 2 over page.**

# 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:

- anyone present on school premises during and outside of school hours including students, teachers, and school visitors
- all activities that take place on school premises.

Smoking and vaping are also not permitted during school events and excursions held off school premises.

### Health and retail laws

It is illegal for any person:

- to sell, barter or exchange any type of tobacco or e-cigarette product to a person under 18 years of age
- to possess an e-cigarette containing nicotine, unless they have a doctor's prescription
- to smoke or vape in a motor vehicle if a person under 18 years is also present in the motor vehicle.

You can report retailers selling e-cigarette products to children to your local council.

## Talking to your child or teen about smoking and vaping

As a parent or carer, you have an important role in protecting your child from smoking and vaping. Parent views on smoking and vaping can influence their children's behaviours. The most important thing you can do is to talk to your child or teen about smoking, vaping and other drugs.

Use these strategies to talk with your child or teen.

### Start with information

Get the key facts, learn the basics about smoking and vaping products, and think through what you want to say. Consider some questions you might be asked, and how you want to respond.

### Approach it calmly

Start the conversation when you're doing an activity together, such as driving or preparing a meal. Keep things casual and relaxed. Use something you saw in a TV show or on the news as a chance to bring up the issue.

### Don't make assumptions

If you think your child may have tried smoking or vaping, avoid making accusations. Some experts do not recommend searching your child's space for evidence of smoking or vaping, because it can undermine their trust.

### Avoid judging or lecturing

Listen to their point of view and keep it a two-way conversation. Being mindful to keep your body language and tone respectful can go a long way. If your child has tried smoking or vaping, consider asking questions like: 'what made you want to try?' and 'how did it make you feel?'

### Don't exaggerate

Make sure you are honest about potential harms and avoid exaggerated statements.

### Focus on health and explain your concerns

Talk about how you care about your child's health. For example, if your child tells you they are smoking or vaping, you can say you are concerned about the health risks and share the evidence that this can affect adolescent brain development and risk of cancer.

## Where to get help

Support and resources are available to help you talk to your child about smoking and vaping

### Quit Victoria

Offers resources, information and support for people to quit smoking and vaping as well as factsheets for parents and children about. [www.quit.org.au/articles/teenvaping](http://www.quit.org.au/articles/teenvaping)

### The Royal Children's Hospital

The e-cigarettes and teens factsheet has information on how to talk to teens about the health risks of using e-cigarettes and a podcast episode on vaping created by paediatricians.

[www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact\\_sheets/E-cigarettes\\_and\\_teens](http://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/E-cigarettes_and_teens)

### Better Health Channel

Information on the health effects of smoking, strategies for quitting, statistics and Victoria's laws on smoking, the dangers of e-cigarettes, liquid used in e-cigarettes and the dangers of nicotine poisoning. [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/healthyliving/smoking-and-tobacco](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/healthyliving/smoking-and-tobacco)

### Your family doctor

Your family doctor is a good place to start for further information and advice regarding smoking and vaping and your child.

### Advice services

- **Quitline** provide advice and confidential counselling, including for children from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday. Phone 13 78 48 or go to [www.quit.org.au](http://www.quit.org.au)
- **DirectLine** is a state-wide alcohol and other drugs advice service offering confidential counselling and referral 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Phone 1800 888 236 or go to [www.directline.org.au](http://www.directline.org.au)
- **Youth, Drugs and Alcohol Advice** provide a youth-specific advice service from 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday. Phone 1800 458 685
- **Alcohol and Drug Foundation** advice line 1300 85 85 84
- **Headspace** offer mental health support online, by phone and in person through headspace centres. Go to [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au)

### More information

This factsheet has been prepared using information and research from:

- QUIT - [www.quit.org.au/articles/teenvaping](http://www.quit.org.au/articles/teenvaping)
- Better Health Channel [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/healthyliving/smoking-and-tobacco](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/healthyliving/smoking-and-tobacco)
- Royal Children's Hospital - [www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact\\_sheets/E-cigarettes\\_and\\_teens](http://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/E-cigarettes_and_teens)
- Alcohol and Drug Foundation - <https://adf.org.au/talking-about-drugs/parenting/vaping-youth/talking-about-vaping/>
- Cancer Council Victoria - [www.tobaccoinaustralia.org.au](http://www.tobaccoinaustralia.org.au)
- Tobacco Act 1987 - [www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/tobacco-act-1987/095](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/tobacco-act-1987/095)

# SCHOOL SMOKING AND VAPING BAN

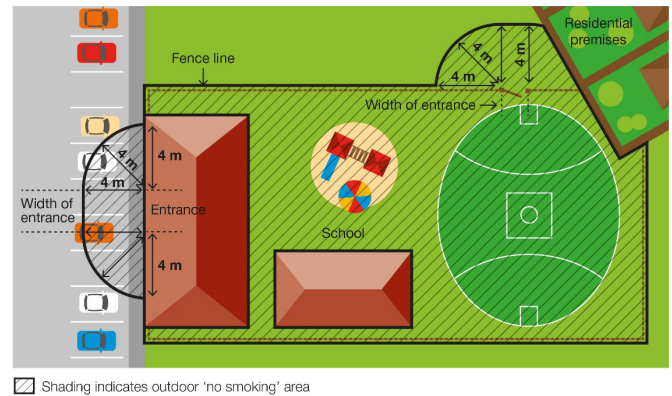
By law, smoking and vaping are banned within the grounds of, and within four metres of an entrance to, all childcare centres, kindergartens, preschools and schools.

## 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.

## DEFINING A PEDESTRIAN ACCESS POINT

A pedestrian access point in relation to premises means a door or gate by which a person can enter or exit the premises. It *does not* include an emergency exit that is locked to entry.

It *does* include shared doors or gates. For example, where a building is occupied by a childcare centre as well as other organisations, such as private businesses, any shared entrances that are used to access both areas of the building would be subject to the smoking ban.

Any entrances which lead only to premises not included in the smoking ban, such as the private offices, would not be subject to the smoking ban.

## WHAT PENALTIES APPLY

Fines are described under law in penalty units. From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, a penalty unit is valued at \$165.22.

The penalty for breaking school smoking and vaping ban laws is a court fine of a maximum of five penalty units (\$826 as of 1 July 2020) or an infringement fine of one penalty unit (\$165 as of 1 July 2020).

The value of a penalty unit is set annually by the Department of Treasury and Finance and is updated on 1 July each year. For current penalty unit values, visit the Department's [website](http://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/financial-management-government/indexation-fees-and-penalties) <www.dtf.vic.gov.au/financial-management-government/indexation-fees-and-penalties>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information:

- visit the [tobacco reforms website](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms) <www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms>
- call the Tobacco Information Line on 1300 136 775

To view the legislation visit the Victorian Government's [legislation website](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au) <www.legislation.vic.gov.au> and search *Tobacco Act 1987*.

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