



## WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE

### ***SMOKING AND VAPING BAN POLICY***

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# WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE

## GUIDING STATEMENT

### **Our Motto**

Live worthily.

### **Our Vision**

Werribee Secondary College is a leader in international education in the Victorian state education system. We implement the best quality educational practices evident throughout Australia and internationally.

The Werribee Secondary College community “lives worthily”. We are adaptable life-long learners, who are confident, creative and resilient individuals, empowered to shape the world in which we live.

### **Our Mission**

At Werribee Secondary College we strive for success in students’ chosen endeavours.

The College community provides a safe and caring environment where each student is valued. We celebrate achievements, success and growth for all students. Our programmes equip students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for the dynamic world after secondary education.

College leaders, teachers and support staff adopt evidence-based best practice to generate a progressive 21st century educational setting. We enhance learning and develop digital literacy through the purposeful use of emerging technology. With a focus on realising optimal outcomes for learners, staff commit to continuous improvement through ongoing targeted professional development, peer collaboration and reflection.

At Werribee Secondary College we nurture the values of respect, cooperation, honesty, integrity, confidence, perseverance, resilience and responsibility. Driven by these ideals, the College community embraces cultural and social diversity. Students develop a strong sense of personal identity and global citizenship, enabling different cultural groups to interact, learn from each other and grow together.



## SMOKING AND VAPING BAN POLICY

### 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](#). 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](#))
- 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.

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 \(Vic\)](#)