



SMOKING AND VAPING GUIDELINE

PURPOSE

Our school recognises the danger smoking, vaping and passive smoking causes to health, as well as the need for the school and its staff to provide positive role models to students. Consequently, for the protection of staff and students, smoking, in any form, is not permitted within any area of the school property, nor at any school related activity or function by students, staff or visitors. This guideline relates to all forms of cigarettes, including tobacco, marijuana, chemical and electronic cigarettes and smoking related products.

SCOPE

This guideline applies to all members of the Portland Secondary College Community.

DEFINITION

The phrase electronic cigarette includes a broad range of products including e-shisha, e-cigars, e-pipes, e-hookahs, hookah-pens, vape-pipes, e-cigs, vapes and e-cigarettes that are designed to allow users to inhale nicotine and/or other chemicals.

GUIDELINE

The Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985, requires employers to provide a safe work place, and as far as practical, without risks to health. The Tobacco (Amendment) Act 2005 prohibits smoking in enclosed workplaces and at under aged music/dance events. Consequently, smoking is not permitted in any area of the school property, nor at any school related activity or function, by students, staff or visitors. Failure by employees to comply with the Act is an offence. Ultimately, visitors who persist in smoking will be asked to leave the College grounds.

E – cigarettes are electronic devices which heat and vaporise liquids that may or may not contain nicotine and/or flavouring agents. The vapour is inhaled, simulating the act of smoking. It is illegal to obtain, possess or use e-cigarettes, which contain nicotine in Victoria. On this basis, students, teachers and employees of the Department are banned from possessing or using e-cigarettes, or their cartridges, containing nicotine on school grounds. Use of electronic cigarettes that do not contain nicotine is only allowed during designated breaks, outside of Portland Secondary College grounds and out of sight of students.

In addition, staff members are not permitted by the School Council Code of Conduct to smoke outside of the school property within the view of students as this sets a bad example for students.

The health risks associated with smoking will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum for all students. Informed choices about smoking will feature amongst the harm minimisation strategies employed in the school's Individual Schools Drug Education Strategy (ISDES), and our "Saying No To Drugs" program will include sections relating to peer pressure and smoking. A whole school approach will be used regarding tobacco education.



Portland Secondary College

Creating the Opportunities...

Our No Smoking policy will be communicated to the community via the school newsletter.

The appropriate counselling and/or disciplinary action will be taken against staff who breach the school's no-smoking policy.

Students are warned via assemblies that they are not to smoke at school, on the way to or from school, or when wearing school uniform.

The period of suspension should increase for each offence eg. First time: 1- day suspension- served in-house, Second offence: 2-day suspension, Third offence: 3-day suspension etc.

Students in the company of smokers should be treated the same as smokers.

Students on suspension for smoking should be given some anti-smoking work to complete prior to returning to school. (assignment, reading and reporting, viewing and questions etc.)

On return, the student(s) should be on restricted yard movement (on rocks outside Assistant Principal's office) at recess and lunchtimes for one week.

All suspended smokers should be required to attend a compulsory counselling session with a Drug & Alcohol Counsellor, organised by the Student Welfare Coordinator

Selling/supplying cigarettes will incur a 5 day suspension. (and parent & police contacted)

Any smoking materials to be confiscated (lighters, matches, vapes, cigarettes etc.)

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.docx