



Smoking / Vaping Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Apollo Bay P-12 College.

1. 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/vaping is not permitted within any area of the school property, nor at any school related activity or function by students, staff or visitors.

2. AIMS

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.

To ensure that a fair and reasonable process for responding to incidents of smoking/vaping is developed, understood and consistently followed.

3. POLICY

- Smoking/vaping and passive smoking is dangerous to the health of employees and students.
- 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 indoors and at under aged music/dance events. Consequently, smoking is not permitted in any area of the school property, nor within 4 metres of any entrance point, at any school related activity or function, by students, staff or visitors. Failure by employees to comply with the Act is an offence.
- 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.
- The health risks associated with smoking/vaping will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum for all students. Informed choices about smoking/vaping 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/vaping. A whole school approach will be used regarding tobacco education.
- No Smoking signs will be erected within 4 metres of the main entrance points to the school, and at all school events and functions.
- Our No Smoking/vaping policy will be communicated to the community via the school newsletter and on our school website.
- The appropriate counselling and/or disciplinary action will be taken against staff who breach the school's no-smoking/vaping policy.

- A combination of counselling and disciplinary measures will accompany any incidents of student smoking/vaping. They include:

First Offence: Parent contact, 1 day internal suspension

Second Offence: Parent contact, 3 day internal Suspension, parent contact.

Third Offence: External suspension, counselling, parent contact.

4. COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Annual reminders in our school newsletters
- Available publicly on our school's website (or via Compass)
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings, as required
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

5. FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/smoking-vaping-ban/resources>

6. POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2022
Consultation	July 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2025



Brian Humphries
Principal



Dan Holthouse
College Council President