



Smoking and Vaping Ban POLICY

A link to this policy is available on the Murtoa College website. Staff will be directed to this policy via the Staff Handbook, parents and students will be directed to this policy via the school Newsletter, Student Diary, Teaching Staff, Year Level Coordinators, Wellbeing Team, and the College Leadership.

DEFINITIONS

- Electronic cigarettes are commonly referred to as 'e-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'.

PURPOSE

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), or within 4 metres of school entrances or at school sanctioned events held off-premises.

To explain to parents/carers, staff and students the Victorian Government's Smoking and Vaping Ban and how this will be implemented at Murtoa College.

The Smoking and Vaping Ban exists to:

- Protect children and young people from the dangers of first and second-hand smoke and vapour
- Reduce the role modelling of smoking and vaping behaviours around children and young people

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- anyone present, on school premises during and outside of school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents, guardians or carers or the wider community, such as sporting groups
- all activities that take place on school premises including cultural, sporting or recreational activities and school activities such as carnivals or special events
- school sanctioned activities and events involving students that occur off-campus (e.g. excursions and camps)

POLICY

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. 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. To maximise clarity, Murtoa College will display signs that incorporate the text directives 'No Smoking' and 'No Vaping' at these pedestrian access (entrance points

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

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

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 like smoking a cigarette. The prohibition on smoking includes the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) and applies whether the e-cigarette contains nicotine or not.

In Victoria, it is illegal for any person to obtain, possess or use nicotine e-cigarettes, or e-cigarette cartridges containing nicotine or nicotine liquids for use in a vapouriser, without a prescription. It is illegal to sell e-cigarettes to, or buy e-cigarettes for, any person aged under 18 years whether the e-cigarettes contain nicotine or not.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Murtoa College will:

- 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 will be achieved through the signage required at each entrance and via the College newsletter.
- remind the school community that smoking, and vaping are not permitted at school-sanctioned events held off school premises.
- 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.
 - if necessary, arrange training with Quit Victoria on how to support staff and young people to quit.
 - make tobacco and vaping education information available.
 - install and monitor anti-smoking and/or anti-vaping detectors in student toilets.

CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENTS SMOKING OR VAPING.

Students found smoking, in the possession of cigarettes or e-cigarettes, buying cigarettes or e-cigarettes from other students or supplying cigarettes or e-cigarettes to other students will result in confiscation and destruction of cigarettes/e-cigarettes, Principal consideration of an immediate suspension from school (internal or external) and other actions as outlined below.

Bystanders in the company of smokers or vapers, (for example multiple students in a toilet cubicle where one or more is vaping) anywhere in the school community, at a school event or whilst travelling to or from school, will attract various consequences:

First occurrence (smokers/vapers & bystander/s)

- Parents/Carers/Guardians informed.
- Student removed from class and yard until education research project is completed and presented.
- Students will complete a Research Project about the health impacts of smoking and vaping, to be presented to Year Level Coordinators, Principal Class Team Member and Parents/Carers/Guardians.
- Optional student education session with Wellbeing Coordinator and/or designated Health Professional

Second occurrence (smokers/vapers & bystander/s)

- Parents/Carers/Guardians informed.
- Cigarettes and/or e-cigarettes confiscated (not returned to student or parent/carer/guardian)
- Suspension from school (Internal or External)
- Restricted access to yard upon return to school for a set period agreed to by Parents/Carers/Guardians
- Optional student education session with Wellbeing Coordinator and/or designated Health Professional

Subsequent occurrences (smokers/vapers & bystander/s)

- Parents/Carers/Guardians informed.
- Cigarettes and/or e-cigarettes confiscated (not returned to student or parent/carer)
- Suspension from school (External)
- Post-suspension meeting with Student, Parents/Carers/Guardians, Assistant Principal (Wellbeing), and the Principal.
- Restricted access to yard upon return to school for set period agreed to by Parents/Carers/Guardians
- Optional student education session with Wellbeing Coordinator and/or designated Health Professional

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Murtoa College Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- Murtoa College Health care Policy
- Murtoa College Child Safe Code of Conduct/Behavioural Expectations
- Murtoa College Complaints Policy
- Murtoa College Duty of Care and Supervision

All policies can be found on the [College Website](#)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

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 \(Vic\)](#)

Department of Education (Victoria)

- [Policy and Advisory Library \(PAL\)](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Useful websites

- [Better Health Channel](#) — contains information on the health effects of smoking, strategies for quitting, statistics and Victoria’s laws on smoking.
- [health.vic](#) — a Victorian State Government website where schools can download documents and signage to display on school grounds.
- [Quit Victoria](#) — offers resources, information and support for people to quit smoking and vaping.
- [Better Health Channel](#): e-cigarettes — contains information on the dangers of e-cigarettes.
- [Better Health Channel](#): e-liquids — contains information the liquid used in e-cigarettes and the dangers of nicotine poisoning
- [The Royal Children’s Hospital](#): e-cigarettes and teens — contains information on how to talk to teens about the health risks of using e-cigarettes
- [The Royal Children’s Hospital](#) — contains a video suitable for school staff and parents/carers on health risks of using e-cigarettes.

Documents

- [School Smoking and Vaping Ban Fact Sheet](#) — this factsheet provides template wording to assist schools in communicating the smoking ban.

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was approved by College Council in March 2023 and is scheduled for review in March 2025