

## **SMOKING BAN POLICY**

### **Rationale**

- From 13 April 2015, smoking is banned within four metres of an entrance to all primary and secondary schools in Victoria, and within the school grounds, under an amendment to the Tobacco Act 1987. A similar ban applying to the entrances and grounds of Victorian childcare centres and kindergartens is also in place.
- While smoking was banned on the grounds of all Victorian Government schools by the Minister for Education in 2009 via a Ministerial Ban Order, the new bans are enshrined in legislation and will also apply to Catholic and independent schools in Victoria.
- It is a legislative requirement that each school installs suitable 'No smoking' signs at all entrances to the school grounds.
- Signs and other communication materials, such as posters and brochures, are available to order free-of-charge from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- The smoking ban applies to:
  - anyone present on school premises during and after school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents/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.
- 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, or their cartridges, 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.
- It is not illegal in Victoria to obtain, possess or use e-cigarettes that do not contain nicotine. However, individual schools may choose to ban all e-cigarettes, including those that do not contain nicotine, on the basis of student health and safety and that it may be difficult to determine if nicotine is being used.
- The school recognises the danger smoking and passive smoking causes to health, as well as the need for the school and its staff to provide positive role models to students.

### **Purpose**

- To ensure there is no smoking on school grounds or near school entrances.
- To ensure Tarneit West Primary School (Interim Name) complies with Department of Education and Training (DET) policy and guidelines and the provisions of the:
  - Tobacco Act 1987
  - Education and Training Reform Act 2006
  - Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007

### **Implementation**

- School Council will develop and implement a smoke-free school policy and communicate this to all employees, parent/carers via the Newsletter and new families upon enrolment.
- At this school, the ban extends to e-cigarettes.
- All employees will be encouraged to communicate this policy to 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 Drug Education/Use Program. A whole school approach will be used regarding tobacco education.
- No smoking signs will be erected at each entrance of the school premises to reinforce the ban on smoking within school grounds and within four metres of school entrances.

- School Council will ensure that all agreements entered into by the School Council include a requirement that the other party agrees to comply with the smoking ban when on school premises.
- The school will encourage DET employees who require support complying with the ban to use the Employee Assistance Program and contact Converge International (1800-337-068). If necessary, training workshops can be arranged through Quit Victoria (9635-5529) on how to support staff in adhering to the ban.
- If advice is required about the drug education policy, curriculum learning strategies and the process of responding to a young person who has been smoking at school, the school will refer to the Smoke Free Schools resource and/or contact the Regional Drug Education and Student Wellbeing Officer
- The school will make tobacco education information available.
- Please refer also to the school's Drug Education & Use Policy and the School Facilities Hire/Shared Use Policy.

#### **Evaluation**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update early July 2017).

| <b><u>Ratification Date</u></b> | <b><u>Review Date</u></b> | <b><u>Policy Number</u></b> | <b><u>Version Number</u></b> | <b><u>Date Produced</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| October 2017                    | 2020                      | 74                          | 1                            | September 2017              |

Reference:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/smokingban.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/smokingban.aspx)