



# North Geelong Secondary College

## SMOKING AND VAPING POLICY

### PURPOSE

To explain to North Geelong Secondary College parents, carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support legislated public health objectives and the complete ban of cigarettes and all types of e-cigarettes (commonly known as vapes) on locations in North Geelong Secondary Colleges jurisdiction; this jurisdiction includes school premises (buildings and grounds), within 4 metres of all school entrances and at any school sanctioned off site events.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all students, regardless of age
- all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers
- all parents and carers within the jurisdiction of North Geelong Secondary College (school buildings, grounds, within 4 metres of entrances and any school sanctioned events)

### POLICY

#### School Statement

North Geelong Secondary College will fully comply with the 'Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 (Vic)', the 'Tobacco Act 1987 (Vic)', the 'Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)' and Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic)' and the associated guidelines published by the Department of Education and Training.

If a student is found to be smoking and/or vaping, or in possession of a cigarette or e-cigarette, there will be consequences at the school's discretion. If suspended due to cigarette or e-cigarette use or possession, the student is required to attend a compulsory return to school education session with a nominated school representative, e.g., school nurse or staff member.

#### Cigarettes

Cigarettes are a tube-shaped tobacco product, possibly containing other products, wrapped in thin paper and capable of being ignited. Cigarettes are designed for human consumption (Australian Department of Health, 2019). North Geelong Secondary College staff reserve the right to classify an object as a cigarette at their discretion so long as the object is within the school's jurisdiction as defined within the purpose statement.

## 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' (Victorian Department of Education, 2021). North Geelong Secondary College staff reserve the right to classify an object as an e-cigarette at their discretion so long as the object is within the school's jurisdiction as defined within the purpose statement.

It is illegal in the state of Victoria for a person aged 18 or over to obtain, possess or use an e-cigarette containing nicotine without a prescription. An e-cigarette that does not contain nicotine is legal to obtain, possess and use for those aged 18 or over. Distributing e-cigarettes of any kind to a person under the age of 18 is illegal.

On school premises, or within 4 metres of a school entrance, e-cigarettes of any kind are not permitted.

### Summary of Legislation

In Victoria a person may **not**

- smoke a cigarette or an e-cigarette within 4 metres of a school entrance
- smoke a cigarette or an e-cigarette on school premises
- smoke a cigarette or an e-cigarette at school sanctioned events or excursions
- purchase a cigarette or an e-cigarette if under the age of 18
- smoke a cigarette or an e-cigarette in a motor vehicle if a person under the age of 18 is present in the vehicle
- obtain, possess or use an e-cigarette that contains nicotine (known commonly as a 'vape') without a prescription
- provide a person under the age of 18 with an e-cigarette of any kind

In Victoria, schools **must**

- display 'No Smoking' signs at each pedestrian access point
- display 'No Smoking' signs in prominent positions
- enforce the ban on cigarettes and e-cigarettes within the school's jurisdiction

In Victoria, principals or their delegates **must**

- 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

## Communication Plan

This policy will be available on North Geelong Secondary College's website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about North Geelong Secondary College's stance on smoking and vaping.

The principal is responsible for ensuring that all relevant staff, including casual relief staff, canteen staff and volunteers are aware of this policy.

The principal is also responsible for ensuring relevant staff are trained and briefed in the smoking and vaping policy and any relevant legislation.

## Resources

[School Policy and Advisory Guide](#)

[No Smoking Sign Template](#)

### Legislation Links

- [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 \(Vic\)](#)

### 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.

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	18/4/2022
Consultation	required to go to school council
Approved by	School Council, 25 May 2022
Next scheduled review date	April 2025