



Smoke Free School – Tobacco Control Policy

Whittlesea Secondary College

1. Background Information:

From 13th 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.

Smoking has been banned on the grounds of all Victorian Government schools since 2009 via a Ministerial Order.

2. Policy Statement:

Whittlesea Secondary College acknowledges the negative health effects of smoking and passive smoking as well as the importance of a smokefree environment which contributes to good health and overall wellbeing. The College fully supports the Department of Education And Training Smoking Ban Policy 2015.

3. Goals of the Policy:

- To achieve a smokefree school environment which sends a clear message that a healthy lifestyle does not include smoking.
- To ensure a smokefree environment for students, families, staff, volunteers and visitors
- To deliver a clear and consistent messages regarding the dangers of smoking by delivering tobacco education in one or more learning key areas of the curriculum as a part of a whole school approach to health and wellbeing
- To provide information to staff and families about the health benefits of not smoking.

4. The smoking ban applies to:

Anyone present on school premises during school hours and after school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents/guardians 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.

The Smoking Ban also includes smoking of Electronic-cigarettes. Electronic cigarettes containing nicotine are illegal. Currently, the sale, use or possession of electronic cigarettes that contain nicotine is against the law in Victoria. E cigarettes are not promoted as therapeutic nicotine replacement products. The short and long term health impacts of using electronic cigarettes remain unknown.

5. Implementation:

- The College will erect no-smoking signs and enforce the ban to prohibit smoking on school grounds and within four metres of school entrances.
- Staff, families and students will be provided with information about policy requirements through communication strategies.
- The Policy will be communicated to the school community by newsletter items, staff handbook, enrolment procedures and signage.
- All school sanctioned events (both on and off the school ground) including camps, excursions, sporting events, fetes and celebrations are totally smokefree
- Staff and students who smoke will be offered support to help them quit or manage their smoking via referrals to the Secondary School Health Promotion Nurse, Quit counselling and/or other health professionals.
- Health information related to smoking will be made available to the school community
- Smoking paraphernalia will be confiscated and only returned to parents or guardians upon request. This includes cigarettes, lighters, tobacco pouches, matches, tobacco rolling paper, e-cigarettes and e- cigarette fluid, pipes and any other device or materials used for smoking.

6. Consequences and management for students found smoking:

Refer to appendices

7. Related Policies and Supporting Documents:

- i. DEECD 2009 Smoke Free Schools Tobacco Prevention and Management Guidelines for Victorian Schools
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/teachers/health/manageguide.pdf>
- ii. Tobacco Act 1987
- iii. Education and Training Reform Act 2006
- iv. Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007
- v. DET School Policy and Advisory Guide – Smoking Ban
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/smokingban.aspx>

- vi. DET School Policy and Advisory Guide – Health Education Approaches
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/health.aspx>
- vii. Electronic Cigarettes in the workplace Information Sheet – Quit Victoria
<http://www.quit.org.au/resource-centre/policy-advocacy/policy/e-cigarettes1>

Appendices

1. Consequences and management for students found smoking:

1st offence : Yr 7-10– Health Education session with School Nurse and parents informed

Yr 11 & 12 - Suspension

2nd offence: Yr 7-10 suspension

Please note, each student will only undergo one session with the School Nurse during their enrolment at Whittlesea Secondary College.

2. Harm reduction agreement

Smoking Risk Reduction Agreement

Whittlesea Secondary College 2015

Student: _____ **Date:** _____

Referred by: _____ **Offence No.** _____

This agreement is made between the student _____ and the Secondary School Health Promotion Nurse _____ on behalf of Whittlesea Secondary College Wellbeing Team.

- _____ is aware of the health risks associated with smoking and of the school's smoke free policy.
- _____ is entering into this agreement in order to help him/her comply with the school's smoke free policy.

1. _____ has agreed not to smoke at school or during any activities sponsored by the school for these reasons: _____

2. _____ will take the following steps to comply with the school's smoke free policy: _____

3. In order to reduce the health risks associated with smoking to self and others, _____ will use the following strategies: _____

4. _____ will keep regular contact with the Nurse and other supportive teachers and their progress will be monitored for a period of time.

Contact will be maintained by: _____

- QUIT info and resources given
- Education and quiz
- 4's Discussed

Student Sign: _____ **Date:** _____

Staff Sign: _____ **Date :** _____

3. Signage

**NO
SMOKING**



**on this premises and
within 4 metres of entrance**

PENALTIES MAY APPLY

Tobacco Act 1987

