



EMERALD SECONDARY COLLEGE

Smoking & Students in the Company of Smokers Policy

Emerald Secondary College recognises the danger of smoking and passive smoking causes to one's health, as well as the need for the school and its staff to provide positive role models to students. Government legislation stipulated that from the 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*.'

Therefore in line with mandated Government legislation, Emerald Secondary College is a smoke-free environment, and students, staff and visitors are not permitted to smoke within any area of the College property, nor at any school related activity or function by students, staff and visitors.

This policy recognises that smoking and passive smoking, which also includes students in the company of smokers, is dangerous to the health of employees and students. Students, staff and visitors who smoke are infringing the rights of others to a smoke-free workplace.

This policy also recognises that the use of 'E-cigarettes' or 'Vapes' is considered as smoking and are also banned on College grounds. Students found in possession or use of these items will be considered to have breached this policy. Recent State Government legislation makes it illegal for young people to purchase 'E-cigarettes' or 'Vapes' which falls in line with tobacco related items.

Note: Students identified smoking in school uniform out of school/out of bell time hours will be treated in the same manner as smoking/being in the company of smokers as if they were on school grounds.

Smoking Materials

Students who bring smoking material (Vapes, E-cigarettes, cigarettes, and other tobacco related material such as papers etc.) to school will have this material confiscated and not returned. This also includes the college not returning any confiscated items to the students or Parent/Guardian. Students should also be aware that a possible investigation into how students came to be in possession of this material may also occur.

It is worth noting that whilst the primary objective of this policy is to ensure the health and wellbeing of our students and the health risks that are associated with smoking. Education around this aspect of health and wellbeing does form specific parts of the Health & PE curriculum for all students. Informed choices about the risks of smoking and other associated drugs/alcohol that are prevalent in any community also forms part of our College wide Health and Wellbeing program which is undertaken through both our Extended Homegroup Program as well as being supported by specific targeted programs.

Further support material for schools is available at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/drugedulearn.aspx>

POLICY STATEMENT

Procedures for students who breach any aspect of the above whilst at school or during any school related activity or function are:

1. First Breach: Parents/Guardian will be contacted and the student will be given an Afterschool Detention by their relevant Year Level Coordinator/Assistant Principal. The student will be provided with a copy of this policy and it will be documented on Compass. During the detention the student will be required to undertake some educational related tasks related to the health impacts of smoking/passive smoking. The website below provides links/activities to such material.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/documents/school/teachers/health/sfcurriculum.pdf>

2. Second Breach: Parents/Guardian will be contacted and the student will be given a Principals AfterSchool Detention by their relevant Year Level Coordinator/Assistant Principal. The breach and it will be documented on Compass as their second offence.
3. Third and subsequent Breaches: Students will serve either an internal or external school suspension for each occasion. The breach and it will be documented on Compass as their third or subsequent offence.

Date Approved:	October, 2016
Date of Review:	October, 2018
Person(s) Responsible for Completing Review:	Student Management Team, Principal Team