

Policy Statement

Wodonga Senior Secondary College will, as far as practicable, provide a safe work environment for the health, safety and welfare of our students, staff, volunteers and visitors.

On 1 July 2009 the Minister for Education exercised the power under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* to prohibit smoking in all government schools.

Purpose

To ensure there is no smoking on school premises.

Department Policy

Schools must enforce the total ban on smoking on school premises.

Applying the Ban

The smoking ban applies to:

- anyone present on school premises during 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 and school related activities (e.g. Debutante Balls, athletics carnivals, excursions)
- Where the school has responsibility for the student

Definitions

The Minister's determination to ban smoking defines "smoking" to mean "inhaling smoke from a cigarette, lighting a cigarette, or inhaling any other substance that results in exhaling smoke".

According to its ordinary definition in the *Macquarie Dictionary* "smoke" is defined as "the visible exhalation given off by a burning or smouldering substance" or "something resembling this, as vapour or mist".

The vapours exuding from an eCigarette reasonably fall within the *Macquarie Dictionary* definition of "smoke" and therefore are included in this ban.

Student Sanctions

Sanctions apply to students who are caught smoking or determined to be smoking because they were in a location or situation:-

- where other students were smoking
- or where there is clear evidence of recent smoking by students
- or that has been declared out of bounds because it has been frequented by smokers

It is expected that senior students are well aware of the rules and their transgression will be treated seriously in the first instance. At all year levels no warnings will be given and an appropriate suspension (internal/external) will occur at the first offence. Students will be referred to quit smoking materials and support will be provided.

Cigarettes and eCigarettes will be confiscated by staff and can be collected by a parent/guardian (upon request), thrown in the bin or given to the Police.

When it is obvious that a student has been exposed to a high level of cigarette smoke that has permeated their clothing such that it impinges on the comfort of others, they will be referred to a House Leader or Student Counsellor for appropriate guidance.

Staff, Volunteers and Visitor Sanctions

Staff, volunteers and visitors who breach this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or receive applicable fines from Work Safe under the OH&S Act 2004.