



St. Arnaud Secondary College Smoking and Vaping Policy

PURPOSE

Our school recognises the laws in effect and the dangers of smoking/vaping and passive smoking/vaping causes to health, as well as the need for the school and its staff to provide positive role models to students. Consequently, for the protection of staff and students, smoking/vaping is not permitted within any area of the school property, or 4m from any school entry, or at any school related activity or function by students, staff, or visitors.

The ban on smoking/vaping exists to reduce the role modelling of smoking and vaping behaviours around children and young people. Children and young people are more likely to view smoking and vaping as socially acceptable when they regularly see people doing it. Banning smoking and vaping in areas used by children and young people will discourage children and young people from using tobacco or e-cigarette products.

SCOPE

The smoking and vaping ban applies to:

1. anyone on school premises during and outside of school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents or carers or the wider community, such as sporting groups.
2. all school activities that take place on school premises or off premises, outside school hours care, cultural, sporting, or recreational activities, school fetes and activities.
3. current students out of school hours in school uniform.
4. smoking and vaping are also banned within four metres of any part of a pedestrian access point (entrance) to the premises.
5. students in possession of smoking/vaping paraphernalia and products
6. students caught with someone smoking/vaping

DEFINITIONS

Smoking - the action or habit of inhaling and exhaling the smoke of tobacco (including marijuana and hashish) by sucking on the end of a lit cigarette, cigar, pipe, etc.

Vaping - the inhaling of a vapor created by an electronic cigarette (**e-cigarette**) or other vaping devices. The liquid is heated into a vapor, which the person inhales. That is why using e-cigarettes is called "vaping."

E-cigarettes - Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are electronic devices which heat and vaporise liquids. They have cartridges filled with a liquid that usually contains nicotine, flavourings, and chemicals. The vapour is inhaled, simulating the act of smoking.

Smoking/Vaping Paraphernalia - means any equipment, apparatus, or furnishing that is used in or necessary for the activity of smoking/vaping. This includes, but is not limited to, ashtrays,

rolling papers, pipes, hookah pipes, cigarettes, and cigars. electronic smoking devices, and electronic smoking device paraphernalia.

Electronic Smoking Device Paraphernalia - means cartridges, cartomisers, e-liquid, smoke juices, tips, atomisers, electronic smoking device batteries, electronic smoking chargers and any other item specifically designed for the preparations, charging or use of electronic devices.

Possession - is something that is in a person's power, custody, or control.

POLICY

- Smoking and passive smoking are both dangerous to the health of employees and students.
- The Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, requires employers to provide a safe workplace, and as far as practical, without risks to health. The Tobacco (Amendment) Act 2016 prohibits smoking in enclosed workplaces and at under aged music/dance events. Consequently, smoking is not permitted in any area of the school property, nor at any school related activity or function, by students, staff, or visitors. Failure to comply with the Act is an offence.
- In addition, staff members are not permitted by the School Council Code of Conduct to smoke outside of the school property within the view of students.
- The health risks associated with smoking will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum for all students. Informed choices about smoking/vaping will feature amongst the harm minimisation strategies employed in the school's curriculum plan. A whole school approach will be used regarding smoking and vaping education.
- 'No Smoking/Vaping' signs will be erected at prominent places within the school.
- Search & Seizure - Principals, Assistant Principals and authorised teachers also have the power to search for and seize harmful items. [DET Banning Searching and Seizing harmful items policy](#)

CONSEQUENCES for students

- **1st offence** – one day internal suspension, parent contact, counselling
- **2nd offence** – two day external suspension, parent contact, counselling
- **3rd offence** – one week external suspension, parent contact, counselling, referral to police

The penalties that can apply when referred to police

Fines are described under law in penalty units. From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, a penalty unit is valued at \$165.22.

The penalty for breaking school smoking and vaping ban laws is a court fine of a maximum of five penalty units (\$826 as of 1 July 2020) or an infringement fine of one penalty unit (\$165 as of 1 July 2020).

The value of a penalty unit is set annually by the Department of Treasury and Finance and is updated on 1 July each year. For current penalty unit values, visit the Department's [website](http://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/financial-management-government/indexation-fees-and-penalties) <www.dtf.vic.gov.au/financial-management-government/indexation-fees-and-penalties>.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Provided to staff at induction and included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Presented to students annually
- Made available publicly on our school website
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL): [Smoking and Vaping Ban](#)
- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL): [School Smoking and Vaping Ban Fact Sheet](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	April 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date [noting that the recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 – 4 years]	2026