



Smoking and Vaping Policy

Introduction

Plenty River College (the College) is an independent, specialist senior secondary school, delivering the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) and VCE Vocational Major (VM). It provides a safe and inclusive learning environment for young people aged 15-20 years who may have been disengaged or are at risk of disengaging from education.

Plenty River College is a school of opportunities in which all students are empowered to achieve their personal best. Our mission is to assist students to develop life and work skills and achieve in their learning by:

- re-engaging them in education;
- fostering their social and emotional development; and
- providing a supportive and safe environment for them.

Rationale

Plenty River College is a smoke-free environment. Smoking is not permitted within the College's premises.

The Tobacco Act 1987 (the Tobacco Act) bans smoking and vaping on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises.

The smoking and vaping ban applies to:

- anyone present on school premises during and outside of school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents or carers 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

Smoking and vaping are also not permitted at school events and excursions held off school premises.

The ban exists:

- (i) To protect children and young people from the dangers of second-hand smoke
 - To ensure that children and young people can enter and leave these areas without being exposed to harmful second-hand smoke.
 - Second-hand tobacco smoke is particularly dangerous to children and young people because they have smaller airways and less developed immune systems compared to adults.

- (ii) To reduce the role modelling of smoking behaviours around children and young people
 - Children and young people are more likely to view smoking as socially acceptable when they regularly see people smoking.
 - Banning smoking or vaping in areas used by children and young people will help to denormalise and discourage children and young people from taking up smoking or vaping.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to support public health objectives and ensure there is no smoking or use of e-cigarettes (commonly known as 'vaping') on the college premises (buildings and grounds), within 4 metres of college entrances or at college sanctioned events held off-premises.

Scope

This policy applies to anyone present on school premises during school hours including students, teachers, contractors, visitors, parents or guardians or the wider community.

Definitions

Electronic 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'.
Smoking	Smoking is a practice where a substance is burned, creating a smoke that is breathed into the lungs.
Vaping	Vaping is a process where a liquid is heated, creating a vapour that is breathed into the lungs. Both smoking and vaping involve inhaling chemicals into the lungs which can harm your health.

Responsibility

1. The College Board is responsible for authorising this policy.
2. The Executive Principal is responsible for:
 - Ensuring that the College displays suitable 'No Smoking or Vaping' signs at all pedestrian access points (entrances) to the school grounds. See appendix 1.
 - 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;
 - remind the school community that smoking and vaping are not permitted at school-sanctioned events held off school premises;
 - the ongoing review of current information handling practices and security procedures to ensure compliance with this policy;
 - if necessary, arrange training on how to support staff and young people to quit;
 - sharing information about smoking and vaping with parents and carers

3. Staff are responsible for:

- Educating students on facts about smoking or vaping. See appendix 2
- Supporting young people who do smoke and/or vape to quit
- Assisting with providing support to students who smoke or vape

Implementation

A person must not smoke cigarettes including e-cigarettes (regardless of whether they contain nicotine) within school premises and within 4 metres of any pedestrian access to school premises. Smoking in these places is a fineable offence.

The College must display 'No Smoking' signs and enforce the ban to prohibit smoking and vaping on school premises (including buildings and grounds) and within 4 metres of school entrances.

Smoking and vaping are also not permitted during school events and excursions held off school premises.

Plenty River College will:

- display 'No Smoking' signs at each pedestrian access point to the school premises.
- display the signs in such a prominent position at each entrance to make it clear that the area at or within 4 metres of that entrance is a 'no smoking' area.

The smoking and vaping ban applies to:

- anyone present on the college premises during school hours
- all activities that take place on school premises Smoking and vaping are also not permitted during school events and excursions held off school premises.

Breaches to this policy

Any student found smoking or vaping inside the College building, inside school approved means of transport or buildings used for offsite school activities will be EXPELLED from school.

Communication

1. This policy will be communicated to the College community through the College website.
2. College teaching and education support staff will be informed of their obligations in relation to this policy by:
 - Carrying out education programs in the classrooms;
 - Display signs in the smoke-free area;
 - Policy posted on the website;
 - Providing a copy of this policy to both students and staff during induction and enrolment process;
 - receiving a copy of the Student and Parent/Guardian Handbook;
 - direct communication with specific staff, students, parents/carers or visitors who are non-compliant.

Appendices:
Appendix 1: No Smoking or vaping poster Appendix 2: Facts about smoking or vaping
Related Policies & Documents:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accident and Incident Reporting Policy• Camps and Excursions Policy• Occupational Health and Safety Policy• Student Behaviour Management Policy• Student Code of Conduct• Student and Parent/Guardian Handbook
Related Legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)• Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic)• Tobacco Act 1987 (Vic)• Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 (Vic)

NO SMOKING OR VAPING



PENALTIES MAY APPLY

Tobacco Act 1987

Appendix 2: Facts about smoking or vaping

Get the facts about smoking and vaping

THE EDUCATION STATE VICTORIA
State Government Education and Training

What are your kids breathing in?

- E-cigarettes and vapes are not safer than cigarettes

- There are no quality or safety standards for e-cigarettes or vapes

- Vaping liquids contain nicotine, heavy metals and cancer-causing chemicals


What it does to your body:

- Vaping can cause vomiting, nausea, coughing, shortness of breath, mouth irritation and asthma

- Long term use can cause lung damage, heart disease and cancers

- Nicotine harms the brain development of children and teenagers

- Young people who vape are more than three times more likely to move onto smoking cigarettes


Talk to your kids about the risks of smoking and vaping

- Contact Quit at www.quit.org.au or phone 13 78 48
- Visit the Royal Children's Hospital website www.rch.org.au and search 'vaping'

- Scan the QR code for more information


www.quit.org.au/articles/teenvaping/

Published: June 2022