

Smoking, Vaping and E-Cigarettes | Student Policy



The Hazard

Tobacco smoke is a health hazard and has been directly linked to a range of serious diseases including lung cancer and heart disease.

The smoking of tobacco products (such as cigarettes) is not only a health hazard to the smoker but also to any person who is exposed to passive smoking through the breathing of air contaminated by tobacco smoke. Nicotine in tobacco is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development.

The hazards associated with electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) or any vaping device that heats a liquid to produce a vapour that users inhale, may include the presence of the following hazardous substances:

- Nicotine
- in e-cigarette liquids and in the aerosol produced by e-cigarettes:
 - formaldehyde
 - acetaldehyde
 - acroleinwhich are known cancer-causing agents.
- flavourings that have been linked to lung disease
- heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead that can cause acute and chronic toxic effects on body organs
- some chemicals in e-cigarette aerosols that can also cause DNA damage.

It may also be difficult to assess the safety of specific e-cigarettes and liquids because:

- there are a wide variety of devices and liquids sold
- their labels are often incomplete or incorrect
- users can change the liquid that they use in their e-cigarette and how the device operates.

The health effects of e-cigarettes and vaping are subject to ongoing research.

Definitions

Smoking is the use or consumption of smoking products.

Smoking products includes all tobacco products (e.g. cigarettes and all smokeless tobacco products), electronic cigarettes, non-tobacco smoking products and shishas.

Electronic cigarettes (also known as e-cigarettes) or other vaping devices include devices that heat a liquid to produce a vapour that users inhale.

For the purposes of this policy, references to e-cigarettes include electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENNDS), alternative nicotine delivery systems (ANDS), personal vaporisers, e-hookahs, vape pens and vapes.

The use of e-cigarettes is commonly known as 'vaping'.

The School's Policy

Ascham School is committed to providing a safe environment for all our students, workers and visitors.

It is our policy that:

- the purchase, possession, supply or use of smoking or e-cigarette products by students is strictly prohibited on school premises, at school functions, excursions and camps, when representing the School, when wearing school uniform and in transit to or from school
- the prohibition on smoking includes the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) whether or not the e-cigarette contains nicotine
- Ascham School will confiscate all smoking products brought onto School premises by students
- Ascham School will confiscate cigarette lighters, matches and other smoking-related products brought onto School premises by students
- a student who is found to be supplying smoking products whether for payment or without payment to other students, may be referred to Police where this breaches legislation relating to the supply to students under the age of 18 years
- Ascham School will provide information to parents/carers on the health risks of vaping and seek their support in reinforcing this policy including in relation to the confiscation of smoking products
- all students will receive age-appropriate health education to enable and support them to make informed choices, and to minimise the harm associated with smoking
- referrals to counselling and support groups may be provided to students with smoking-related problems.

The Legislation

In addition to the school's prohibition on smoking and vaping, all Australian states and territories have legislation with restrictions and sanctions in relation to smoking, including fines for selling of smoking products to persons under the aged of 18.

The laws on the supply and possession of nicotine vaping products ***changed at the beginning of October 2021***. In brief, all Nicotine vaping products are now regulated under Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 as Schedule 4 (prescription only) medicines in the Poison Standard.

A prescription will be required to legally access nicotine-containing e-cigarette products for any purpose. This includes importing these products from overseas.

Identifying E-Cigarette Devices and Their Effects

Some e-cigarette devices are designed to look like cigarettes or cigars, however, as some state or territory laws ban the sale of cigar or cigarette 'look alike' products, many e-cigarette versions look like memory sticks or pens.

Most e-cigarettes consist of four different components, including:

- a cartridge, reservoir or pod, which holds a liquid solution (*e-liquid* or *e-juice*) containing varying amounts of nicotine, flavourings, and other chemicals
- a heating element (atomizer)
- a power source (usually a battery)
- a mouthpiece that the person uses to inhale.

In many e-cigarettes, puffing activates the battery-powered heating device, which vaporises the liquid in the cartridge. The person then inhales the resulting aerosol or vapour.

Visual representation of e-cigarette and vaping products can be found [here](#).

Vaping does not cause the user to 'smell like cigarette smoke', as the smell dissipates quickly in the air. Younger children prefer sweet-flavoured e-juice, so this smell may linger on their breath or clothing.

Tobacco smoking and e-cigarettes which contain high levels of nicotine or similar alkaloids may leave the users with symptoms such as nausea, trembling and dizziness.

Dealing With a Student Who Breaches This Policy

If a staff member suspects that a student has breached this policy, through either the identification of smoking or e-cigarette products held by the student, or identification of symptoms associated with the student's use of these products, they must:

- confiscate and/or isolate any smoking products
- escort student to the Deputy Head of School's office with their bag
- in the presence of another teacher, the Deputy Head of School will request student to empty their pockets or bags where the staff member suspects that they contain tobacco or e-cigarette products. A student's consent will be required to proceed with the search.
- the Deputy Head of School will inform the Head of School of the situation.
- for the safety of staff, students and visitors, the School has installed HALO Smart Sensors in school bathrooms. Should a student be suspected of smoking or using e-cigarette products from a HALO alert, the procedures above will be carried out.

Actions by the Head of School will include:

- considering the welfare of the student suspected of purchasing, possessing, supplying or using smoking products
- considering the welfare of the student population
- contacting the student's parents/guardians to inform them of the incident.

The Head of School may also consider:

- contacting counselling and support services for further referral in relation to the student
- disciplinary consequences, according to our Student Discipline Policy
- contacting the Police where tobacco or e-cigarette products have been supplied by an identified individual to students under the age of 18 years.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff must ensure that they:

- actively supervise students when on grounds duty
- regularly check areas of the campus where this type of behaviour could occur
- follow the guidelines set out in this policy when dealing with a student that they believe may have breached this policy
- inform the Deputy Head of School or SLT members if staff have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student has breached this policy.

Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- staff training in the identification of vaping and e-cigarette products
- staff training on identifying students who have been affected by vaping or e-cigarette products
- informing and regularly reminding the school community (including students, staff and parents/guardians) about the guidelines set out in this policy
- student education via ongoing age-appropriate smoking education programs integrated into classroom learning
- parent/guardian education regarding the identification of smoking or e-cigarette products and their effects on students
- effective staff supervision of areas where smoking may (or is known to) occur
- effective incident notification procedures
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary
- effective record keeping procedures.

Policy Number	CompliSpace
Policy Owner (SLT)	Deputy Head
Authorised by	Head of School
Reviewed date	2021 Term 4
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