



Smoke-free Policy

INTRODUCTION

All staff members of Bairnsdale Secondary College are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children. Our College values of 'respect for self' and 'respect for others' provide a strong foundation for this policy.

Bairnsdale Secondary College recognises the danger smoking and passive smoking causes to health, as well as the need for College staff to provide positive role models to students and the wider school community.

AIM

Under the Tobacco Act 1987 (Vic) smoking is banned within the grounds of, and within four metres of an entrance to, all Victorian primary and secondary schools. The ban applies at all times, no matter whether the building or school grounds are being used for education purposes or other purposes. The ban therefore applies when other activities are taking place on school grounds, such as fetes or sporting events and school holiday programs.

POLICY

Bairnsdale Secondary College believes that smoking bans de-normalise smoking and discourages students from taking up smoking. We recognise that exposure to second-hand smoke is harmful to health and that the school community has a right to be protected.

In addition to the ban on smoking the College believes it is important to proactively reinforce the message to students that smoking and passive smoking is damaging to health.

The College aims to apply consistent and fair process for responding to incidents of smoking and that students and staff members understand these outcomes.

This document applies to the whole College community including staff, contractors, volunteers, students and visitors to the College.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy applies in the same way to both electronic cigarettes and traditional cigarettes.

Smoking is not permitted within the grounds of the school, or at any school related activity or function on or off school premises, or within 4 meters of an entrance to the school by staff, contractors, volunteers, students and all visitors to the College.

The College views smoking primarily as a health issue and believe smoking prevention education is best delivered within the context of the school curriculum where the whole-of-school approach to health and wellbeing is evident. We educate students on addiction and the health effects of smoking in health curriculum within the school.

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The No Smoking rule of the College is clearly communicated to all members of the school community.

Outcomes of smoking for students

In the first instance of a student not following the smoke-free policy, a teacher or staff member follows established student welfare and management procedures and reminds the student of the health risk of smoking. Hub staff members are informed of all students behaving outside of this policy.

In the event of further incidents of smoking by the same student, a teacher or staff member again reminds the student of the policy and associated health risks, and offer counselling and quit support information and resources, including Quitline (137 848). Other outcomes may include:

- students reported for smoking are offered counselling sessions conducted by the school nurse or other appropriate staff member.
- students reported for smoking may be suspended from school for one school day for failing to follow school rules.
- parents are notified of the breach of this policy and the consequence of this.

Supporting staff members who smoke

This smoke-free policy is an integral part of our existing workplace health and safety policies. Staff adherence to this policy is a condition of employment at Bairnsdale Secondary College.

To help staff members who wish to cut down or stop smoking, the College provides assistance for people to adjust to the changes. This includes promoting the Quitline (13 7848) and / or providing printed health information.

Staff cannot be disciplined for smoking away from the school, in their own time. However, this policy applies to staff attending externally held school events such as school camps / excursions, sporting events or formals.

Any breach of this policy will lead to the normal disciplinary procedures being applied.

Following the policy for visitors

There is strong community support for banning smoking at areas where students are present. This means most people will voluntarily comply with the smoking ban and expect others to do so. If a person is smoking in a non-smoking area, staff members should:

- assume that the person is unaware of the policy and remind them about the College's smoke-free policy
- politely ask them to refrain from smoking or move to an area where smoking is permitted.

OTHER RESOURCES / CONTACT NUMBERS

- Quitline 137 848
- DET Drug Education 9637 2035
- www.health.vic.gov.au

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