



Policy

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Smoking & Vaping

Purpose

Good Counsel College is committed to providing a smoke and vape free campus. This policy aims to deliver the college community (students, staff, parents/carers, volunteers, visitors) a clear, consistent message regarding the dangers and consequences of smoking and vaping, and encourages them to make positive choices that promote healthy lifestyles.

The following document has also been created to adhere to government legislation regarding smoking and the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) on and around school grounds.

The large amounts of chemicals with known harmful effects, including nicotine, in many of the brands of e-cigarettes sold are sufficient to justify Good Counsel College taking control measures in exercising a duty of care towards all students.

Legislation

In Queensland it is illegal for any person under 18 years to obtain, possess or use e-cigarettes, or e-cigarette cartridges containing nicotine, or nicotine liquids for use in a vaporiser, without a prescription. It is illegal to sell e-cigarettes to, or buy e-cigarettes for, any person aged under 18 years whether or not the e-cigarettes contain nicotine.

Under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 (the Act), e-cigarettes (regardless of whether they contain nicotine or not) and related products are smoking products and are subject to Queensland smoking laws. These laws include e-cigarettes not being:

- used in no-smoking indoor and outdoor places
- sold to anyone under 18 years of age
- advertised, promoted or displayed at retail outlets
- provided for sale in a vending machine

Vaping and smoking is banned at all Queensland state and non-state schools (school facilities), and for five metres beyond their boundaries.

The law applies at all times – before, during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays.

It includes the use of all smoking products, including e-cigarettes. Smoking and vaping are not permitted during school events and excursions held off-campus and while wearing the college uniform.

Health

Vaping is the action or practice of inhaling and exhaling vapour containing nicotine and/or flavouring produced by a device designed for this purpose.

Queensland Health states that “nicotine is a dangerous poison and can cause serious injury and death. It can be absorbed through the skin. Liquid nicotine refill for e-cigarettes is particularly dangerous to younger children who might be attracted by the packaging and the use of fruit and confectionery flavouring.”

Other concerns and considerations regarding e-cigarettes include:

- *Being a poisoning risk*
- *Not listing the presence and/or actual strength of nicotine on the product label*
- *Containing other unknown, possibly toxic chemicals*
- *Having incorrect or inconsistent labelling and unsafe packaging*
- *Encouraging the uptake of smoking*
- *Having significant negative impacts on brain development*

Consequences

Smoking and vaping on or around the campus, in school uniform or in public areas will be viewed as tarnishing Good Counsel College’s reputation. All e-cigarettes are treated as an illicit substance. There are serious consequences for students who do not adhere to college expectations outlined in this document.

Students found using or in possession of a cigarette or vaping device

Students who are found to be using or in possession of a cigarette or vaping device will be:

- suspended for a period of **three** school days
- expected to complete a written reflection during the period of suspension
- required to attend a re-entry interview on campus with a parent/carer

Students found to be distributing/selling or buying cigarettes or vaping devices

Students who are found to be distributing, selling or buying cigarettes or vaping devices will be:

- suspended for a period of **ten** school days
- referred to the police
- required to meet with the Principal to review enrolment
- subject to any other consequences deemed appropriate by the Principal, Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns or the Queensland Police

Students found in the presence of a cigarette or vaping device

Students who are found associating with smokers/vapers at the time of the offence, even though they may not have been smoking/vaping themselves, will be:

- suspended for a period of **one full school day** (i.e. if an incident occurs on one day, the suspension will encompass all of the following day)
- required to attend a re-entry interview on campus with a parent/carer

Students found in a bathroom cubicle with another student/s

Students will be assumed to be engaging in activity that fails to adhere to college expectations, and will be:

- suspended for a period of **three school days**
- required to attend a re-entry interview on campus with a parent/carer

Please Note:

- Loitering around public areas (e.g. bathrooms and lockers) before, during and after school will be treated with suspicion, and may result in further investigation and consequences
- If investigation into any incident is required, students will be removed from classes while this occurs, and parents/carers will be contacted
- The college Principal will review student enrolment for repeated infringements.

See Also

While the college appreciates that one-off presentations from community organisations or representatives may appear beneficial, [the most effective methods of education](#) come from those who have strong, established relationships with young people. The college will continue to use available time in SEL lessons to inform students of the risks that alcohol and other drugs can have; however, the college also calls on parents/carers to speak with their child about such issues as well.

Members of the college community are encouraged to access the following support resources – each resource is embedded as an accessible weblink:

- [Dovetail – Vaping Fact Sheet](#)
- [QLD Government – Dr Karl's Vape Truths](#)
- [Hopefull Institute – The Dangers of Vaping \(Addiction\)](#)
- [Vaping in Teens](#)
- [Vaping in Adults](#)

Enquiries

Enquiries about this policy must be made with the *Assistant Principal – Wellbeing*.