



MORDIALLOC COLLEGE
A better choice in education

Tobacco Smoking, including Electronic Cigarettes Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the General Office.

Mordialloc College: Mordialloc.co@education.vic.gov.au, 03 9580 1184.

Purpose:

Mordialloc College is committed to being a smoke free and electronic cigarette free school and supporting the health and wellbeing of staff and students. In line with the Department of Education and Training policy on drug education, we operate under a harm minimization approach. Smoking and the use of nicotine containing electronic Cigarettes is prohibited in Victorian Government Schools. This means:

- Mordialloc college is a smoke-free zone meaning cigarette and electronic cigarettes free.
- Students, staff and parents are not smoke in school premises, on grounds and at school functions and activities
- An ongoing communication strategy should be designed to inform the whole school community of the reasons for a smoke free policy
- All members of the school community should be aware of their role in implementing a smoke-free environment

Establishing a smoke-free environment requires a whole school approach inclusive of parents and the wider community. Our policy and practice is based on the following guidelines to ensure a comprehensive approach:

1. Mordialloc College is a smoke-free environment
2. Tobacco and nicotine prevention and management will be delivered as part of a whole school approach to health and wellbeing
3. Tobacco and electronic cigarette education will be delivered in the context of the school health curriculum
4. Effective tobacco and electronic cigarette education is based on staff receiving up to date information.
5. The college recognises that student use of electronic cigarettes and tobacco products is primarily a health issue
6. Students who are vulnerable to becoming regular smokers should be identified early in their "smoking pathway" and given the opportunity to undertake intensive (delete) support from the student wellbeing team
7. Students will be supported not to smoke or use electronic cigarettes at school
8. Parents/guardians will be involved in the management of a young person's tobacco and electronic cigarette's use

9. Health staff and Secondary School Nurse (SSN) will work with community-based agencies in the management of tobacco and electronic cigarettes use – eg Quit, Central Bayside Community Health Service, City of Kingston.
10. The college will regularly evaluate tobacco prevention and management strategies

Policy:

Electronic Cigarettes

E-cigarettes are electronic devices which heat and vaporise liquids that may or may not contain nicotine and/or flavouring agents. The vapour is inhaled, simulating the act of smoking.

It is illegal to obtain, possess or use e-cigarettes, or their cartridges, which contain nicotine in Victoria. On this basis students, teachers and employees of the Department are banned from possessing or using e-cigarettes, or their cartridges, containing nicotine on school grounds.

Whilst it is not illegal in Victoria to obtain, possess or use e-cigarettes that do not contain nicotine, Mordialloc College bans all e-cigarettes, including those that do not contain nicotine, on the basis of student health and safety and that it may be difficult to determine if nicotine is being used.

Implementation:

Prevention

Prevalence rates of smoking tobacco and electronic cigarettes amongst young people and the fact that smoking is responsible for 80% of drug related deaths in Australia establishes strong rationale for pursuing a preventative approach. Students are to receive information and skill development through health education in Year 7 - 10.

Parents/guardians can be supported through information and strategies to support their children in not becoming smokers through newsletter items and, where appropriate, individual assistance through the Wellbeing staff including the Secondary School Nurse (SSN)

Students will engage in health promotion activities through the curriculum to ensure they have a thorough understanding of the risks associated with smoking.-Staff will continue to receive professional development to ensure they are equipped to intervene and manage young people who choose to smoke at school or as they travel to and from school or on school related activities.

Management

Although consequences for breaking Mordialloc College rules will apply, additional support interventions will be offered for students who engage in smoking. This is if the student is found to be smoking – including use of electronic cigarettes at school, traveling to or from school or on school sponsored activities. Support interventions are based on the belief that smoking is primarily a health issue and recognises the rapid dependent nature of nicotine. The college aims to support young people to remain smoke-free through the school day or on school-sponsored activities.

1. Staff member informs the Year Level Coordinator of student who was smoking – including use of electronic cigarettes
2. Contact home and suspension
3. Refer to Wellbeing staff for an assessment around smoking and wellbeing, usually the Secondary School Nurse (SSN)

Review:

Policy last reviewed	May 2023
Consultation	PDC
Approved by	PDC
Next scheduled review date	May 2026