

# ARMIDALE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS VAPING POLICY

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# ARMIDALE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

## VAPING POLICY

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Vaping (the smoking of e-cigarettes<sup>1</sup>) by young people, including school students, is a rapidly growing trend that has such significant health risks and impacts that Australian and international health authorities have labelled youth vaping a public health crisis.

### 2. STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Our school values and promotes the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students, staff, and other workers. We are committed to a *no-vaping Policy*, procedures, and intervention program to reduce the incidence and harmful impacts of vaping among our students and school community. This involves upholding the law.

### 3. SCOPE

This *Vaping Policy* applies:

- in all school workplaces, work and learning areas, premises and grounds
- to all students, staff, other workers, and visitors
- in all school activities, excursions, camps, events, and functions.

### 4. FRAMEWORK

The *Policy* is framed within and underpinned by:

- legislation regulating vaping products (e-cigarettes, pods and liquids) and smoking in schools
- The school's *Work Health & Safety Policy*, *Alcohol & Other Drugs Policy*, *Living Well Learning Well framework*.

### 5. KEY PRINCIPLES

Within the Scope of this Policy:

1. The possession, supply, promotion, or use of any vaping product is prohibited.
2. Parents and caregivers have a primary responsibility for developing and protecting the health and wellbeing of their children, including in the matter of vaping.
3. The school and school staff have a duty of care for the safety and wellbeing of students, staff, and other people, including in the matter of vaping.
4. If a staff member has reason to suspect a student of possessing, supplying, promoting, or using a vaping product, this is to be reported to a member of the school's Leadership Team.
5. Any vaping product or device found will be confiscated, secured, and removed from the school in accordance with hazardous waste <sup>2</sup> disposal procedures (see [ATTACHMENT 1](#))

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<sup>1</sup> e-cigarettes are battery-operated devices that are activated by puffing and use heat to vapourise a liquid containing propylene glycol, other chemicals, and often nicotine that e-cigarette users inhale (or 'vape')

<sup>2</sup> e-cigarette batteries include lithium ion batteries that can explode when damaged or under pressure; vape liquids may contain nicotine and toxic chemicals that can cause poisoning and serious harm to children on ingestion.

6. With appropriate assistance and support for students, families, and others who may be involved, e-cigarette-related incidents will be dealt with according to the school's *Living Well Learning Well framework*
7. Resources to support school communities in raising awareness are accessible to staff through the Education Safety Hub and to parents and students through school communication channels.

## 6. RESPONSIBILITIES

Supported by the school Leadership Team and the Armidale Catholic Schools Office, **the Principal**, is responsible for:

- ensuring that the whole school community is made aware of the school's *Vaping Policy*, and is given adequate role-appropriate information and support the *Policy*
- ensuring that *Policy* aims, rules, and requirements are met and procedures are followed
- all responses to incidents of vaping are in accordance with the Armidale Catholic Schools Office Code of Conduct

Supported by the school Leadership Team and the Armidale Catholic Schools Office, **school staff** are responsible for:

- cooperating with and implementing the requirements of this *Policy*
- taking reasonable steps, according to this *Policy*, to prevent reasonably foreseeable harm occurring to any person from e-cigarettes or vaping
- referring, without delay, any vaping matters to the school's Leadership Team.

Supported by the principal, school Leadership Team and school staff, **students** are responsible for:

- cooperating and complying with the rules of this *Policy*
- following the instructions and directions of school staff
- supporting the wellbeing of their friends and other students.

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Vaping Device Confiscation and Disposal

When any actual or suspected vaping device (e-cigarette, vaping product, or vaping paraphernalia) is handed in or confiscated:

1. **bag the device** as soon as possible in an individual plastic bag
2. **take the bagged device** to the school office as soon as reasonably practicable
3. **inspect the device** for swelling, leaking and damage.
4. **If the device looks damaged** in any way, put on protective gloves, eyewear, and if possible, an apron.
  - Liquid nicotine is toxic and can cause poisoning if it touches skin or is accidentally ingested.
  - Damaged batteries can leak contents that cause burn or other injuries.
5. **Place the bagged device** in a separate, sealable, watertight, solid storage container such as a plastic (polyethylene) canister or bin.
6. **Add** sand, kitty litter, vermiculite or another fire containment material to the container.
  - Vaping device lithium-ion batteries are a known fire hazard and have been associated with fires, explosions, and serious injuries.
7. **Seal** the container.
8. **Label** the container 'Caution: Vaping Devices - Hazardous Waste'.
9. **Store** the labelled hazardous vape waste where in a locked storage area in such a way that it cannot be damaged, knocked over, or accessed without authority.
10. **Keep** a fire extinguisher in the storage area.
11. **Arrange for removal** for proper recycling/disposal according to the school's Hazardous Waste Disposal Procedures.
12. **Avoid stockpiling** vaping devices so that their potential to cause harm to people and property is kept to a minimum.