BADEN POWELL COLLEGE

SMOKING AND VAPING BAN

Policy 2026

PURPOSE:

Baden Powell College recognises the laws in effect and the dangers of smoking/vaping and passive smoking/vaping causes to health, as well as the need for the school and its staff to provide positive role models to students.

Consequently, for the protection of staff, students and the wider community, smoking and vaping are not permitted on school premises (buildings and grounds), within 4 meters of any pedestrian access point to the school premises, or at any school-sanctioned event or excursion held off-premises, by students, staff, contractors, parents/carers or visitors.

The ban on smoking/vaping exists to reduce the role modelling of smoking and vaping behaviors around children and young people. Children and young people are more likely to view smoking and vaping as socially acceptable when they regularly see people doing it. Banning smoking and vaping in areas used by children and young people will discourage children and young people from using tobacco or e-cigarette products.

GOALS:

- To achieve a smoke free school environment which sends a clear message that a healthy lifestyle does not include smoking.
- To ensure a smoke free environment for students, families, staff, volunteers and visitors.
- To deliver a clear and consistent message regarding the dangers of smoking by delivering tobacco and vape education in one or more learning key areas of the curriculum as a part of a whole school approach to health and wellbeing.
- To provide information to staff and families about the health benefits of not smoking or vaping.

SCOPE:

The smoking and vaping ban applies to:

1. Anyone on school premises during and outside of school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents or carers or the wider community, such as sporting groups.
2. All school activities that take place on school premises or off premises, outside school hours care, cultural, sporting, or recreational activities, parent teacher interviews and school activities.
3. Current students are out of school hours in school uniform (railway station).
4. Smoking and vaping are banned within 4 meters of any part of a pedestrian access point (entrance) to the school premises.
5. Students must not possess, supply or use e-cigarettes or vaping products at school or at school-sanctioned activities.
6. The ban applies to e-cigarettes whether or not they contain nicotine and whether or not they are prescribed for therapeutic use.

DEFINITIONS:

Smoking - the action or habit of inhaling and exhaling the smoke of tobacco by sucking on the end of a lit cigarette, cigar, pipe, etc.

Vaping - the inhaling of a vapor created by an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or other vaping devices. The liquid is heated into a vapor, which the person inhales. That is why using e-cigarettes is called "vaping."

E-cigarettes - Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are electronic devices which heat and vaporise liquids that may or may not contain nicotine or flavouring agents. The vapour is inhaled, simulating the act of smoking. Use of e-cigarettes is commonly referred to as vaping.

Smoking/Vaping Paraphernalia - means any equipment, apparatus, or furnishing that is used in or necessary for the activity of smoking/vaping. This includes, but is not limited to, ashtrays, rolling papers, pipes, hookah pipes, cigarettes, and cigars. electronic smoking devices, and electronic smoking device paraphernalia.

Electronic Smoking Device Paraphernalia -means cartridges, e-liquid, smoke juices, tips, atomisers, electronic smoking device batteries, electronic smoking chargers and any other item specifically designed for the preparation, charging or use of electronic devices.

Possession - is something that is in a person's power, custody, or control.

POLICY:

- Smoking and passive smoking are both dangerous to the health of employees and students.
- The smoking and vaping ban is a legislative requirement. A person must not smoke or vape on school premises or within 4 meters of any pedestrian access point to school premises. Smoking or vaping in these places is a fineable offence. The Department also bans smoking and vaping at school events and excursions held off school premises.
- Failure to comply with the act is an offence.
- In addition, staff members are not permitted by the School Council Code of Conduct to smoke outside of the school property within the view of students.
- The health risks associated with smoking will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum for all students. Informed choices about smoking/vaping will feature amongst the harm minimisation strategies employed in the school's curriculum plan. A whole school approach will be used regarding smoking and vaping education.
- 'No Smoking' or 'No Smoking or Vaping' signs must be displayed in a prominent position at every pedestrian access point to the school grounds, making it clear that the area at or within 4 metres of the entrance is smoke and vape-free.
- Students and staff who require support to stop smoking or vaping will be offered appropriate health and wellbeing support. This may include referral to school health and wellbeing staff, Quitline/Quit Victoria, a general practitioner or, for Department employees, Employee Wellbeing Support Services.
- Health information related to smoking will be made available to the school community.
- E-cigarettes and vaping products involved in a student incident will be confiscated, labelled and stored securely in a cool, dry place away from sunlight and heat for collection by the student's parent/carer. Confiscated e-cigarettes and liquids must not be disposed of in general waste.

MANAGING VAPING INCIDENTS:

Where a student vaping incident occurs, staff will contain the incident, confiscate the e-cigarette or vaping product, explain the school ban and behavioural expectations, and notify the relevant Year Level/Wellbeing staff. Parents/carers should be contacted following a vaping incident and asked to collect confiscated products.

Where appropriate, non-punitive interventions and wellbeing supports should be considered before disciplinary measures. For complex or repeated incidents, responses will be consistent with the College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and Department guidance on managing and responding to behaviour.

Personal use or possession of an e-cigarette does not, by itself, fall under the specific grounds for suspension in Ministerial Order 1125. Suspension is a serious disciplinary measure and any suspension decision must comply with the Department's Suspensions policy.

A principal's statutory power to search for or seize harmful items does not extend to e-cigarettes. Staff must follow Department policy and applicable school procedures when responding to suspected possession.

If a student becomes very unwell, has difficulty breathing, is drowsy or loses consciousness following vaping exposure, staff must call 000 and follow the College First Aid procedures and Emergency Management Plan. For skin or eye contact with vaping liquid, wash the area with clean running water and contact the Victorian Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.

Consequences for Breaking School Policy – 'smoking/vaping' Procedure:
Student smoking/vaping on school premises:

OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH

- 1st offence – Student completes the Vape Check tool https://insight.qld.edu.au/shop/vape-check under the guidance of Student Wellbeing team member (Coordinator or Counsellor). Discussion held re: findings from the Vape Check tool.

- 2nd offence- Referral to Student Wellbeing Team (Coordinator or Counsellor) or Health Promotion Nurse for further education around vaping. Year Level Coordinator to contact parents/guardians.

- 3rd offence- For continued smoking/vaping, a parent meeting is required and referral to an adolescent friendly alcohol and drug service. Options include:
  - **Western Health Adolescent Community Programs**
  - **Anglicare- Youth Drug and Alcohol Programs**
  - **YSAS Outreach inclusive of The Zone**

The Principal or delegate will ensure the whole school community is aware of the smoking and vaping ban. Where non-compliance occurs, additional communication may be provided through newsletters, the College website, or direct communication with relevant students, staff, parents/carers, contractors or visitors.

COMMUNICATION:

- This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:
- Provided to staff at induction and included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Presented to students annually
- Made available publicly on our school website
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....	**October 2026**