

Smoke Free School Policy



Policy Statement

This school regards itself as a health-promoting organisation. It recognises that its staff act as role models for students in all aspects of school life, including health promotion. In light of the evidence that second hand smoke causes damage to health this Smoke Free School Policy has been implemented to:

- ★ *protect the staff, children and young people, visitors and contractors from the effects of tobacco smoke;*
- ★ *acknowledge the educational role of the organisation in discouraging children and young people from starting to smoke;*
- ★ *be a health promoting organisation;*
- ★ *raise awareness of the dangers of smoking through Upwey High School's Health Education program from Years 7 to 10*
- ★ *help smokers to quit.*

Guidelines

1.1 Since 1 July 2009 smoking is not permitted in Victorian government school premises either indoors or outdoors

1.2 It is important that the school community is fully informed about Upwey High School's Smoke Free School Policy that complies with the Victorian Government legislation

1.3 The school recognises that nicotine is an addictive substance and some staff and students will have great difficulty complying with the policy initially. Issues will be treated both sensitively and sympathetically

1.4 There will be consequences for students breaching the Smoke Free School Policy guidelines.

Program

2.1.1 This Smoking Policy will not allow any smoking within the boundaries of the school site **at any time**, by anyone – students, teaching and non-teaching staff, parents or visitors, **under any circumstances**.

Smoking is known to be a serious risk to health. It is a significant cause of disease and premature death. In addition there is now evidence that “passive smoking”, the inhaling of other people’s smoke, can cause lung cancer in non-smokers, as well as causing a deterioration of respiratory conditions.

2.1.2 Smoking will not be permitted by any group hiring the school premises for functions or regular lettings and this will be written into the hire agreement.

2.2.1 Parents/carers and students to be informed of this Smoking Policy and any changes thereto through newsletters and other forms of communication.

2.2.2 Clearly word signs will be sited at the gates, entrance(s) and in prominent positions throughout the school premises.

2.3.1 The Department of Education has partnered with Quit Victoria to support the schools ban. Quit Victoria offers support for staff and students with quitting smoking.

2.3.2 DET employees are able to access the Employee Assistance Program.

2.3.3 In cases of persistent breaches of the policy with a lack of intention to comply then the Principal will invoke disciplinary procedures.

2.3.4 Upwey High School will provide support to parents/carers in assisting their children to quit smoking.

2.4.1 Pupils caught smoking will be put on a register of smokers and a program will be followed with clear consequences:

- *Referral to Student Wellbeing Team*
- *Intervention by Sub school Team*

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Guidelines

- 1.5 Upwey High School is committed to providing smoke prevention education to all students.
- 1.6 Upwey High School will strive to form partnerships with the broader community to provide an environment that promotes the health of all young people.

Program

- *Loss of privileges/ detention/ a charity donation*
- *Awareness session on the dangers of smoking*
- *Letter home to parents*
- *Details on support stop smoking services through leaflets*
- *Referral to appropriate health professionals*
- *Repetition or refusal to comply may result in suspension.*

- 2.5.1 Tobacco education curriculum materials will be implemented in Health Education classes in Years 7 to 10 to support Upwey High School to provide a smoke free environment.
- 2.5.2 The school will provide students with the thinking skills to be able to make informed decisions/choices by the effective implementation of the curriculum.
- 2.5.3 The school will provide students with the behavioural skills that will help them minimise harm associated with tobacco use.
- 2.6.1 The school will work with local council health officers to reduce the illegal sale of cigarettes to young people in the local community.
- 2.6.2 Upwey High School will work closely with local health professionals to foster the health of young people in the local community.

Links

- ★ <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/smokingban.aspx>

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's 3 year cycle or as required by developments in relevant legislation.

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