

Rationale

Under the [Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 \(Tobacco Act\)](#) vaping devices are smoking products and are subject to the same laws as tobacco or cigarettes. This means that in Queensland it is illegal to:

- supply any smoking-products to people under 18 years of age
- supply any vaping goods (with or without nicotine) to people under the age of 18 without a prescription
- advertise and promote vaping products
- use a smoking-product, including and vaping device in smoke-free areas, including on school grounds or within 5m of the boundary.

Smoke and vape-free protection includes all carparks provided for school communities. This includes carparks located on council land that are intended for school community use. The smoke and vape-free requirements for schools always apply. This means school carparks are also smoke and vape-free areas outside of school hours, on weekends and in school holiday periods. The laws apply to all persons using a school carpark including students, teaching staff, parents and guardians of students, other employees of the school, visitors and persons providing a service or volunteering, clubs and organisations accessing school facilities.

The school also acknowledges the importance of preventative measures and providing health, safety and wellbeing education, including the risks associated with vaping products such as e-cigarettes, e-cigars and vape pens.

Policy Details

The possession, use, supply and sale of all electronic cigarettes and vaping products is prohibited at St Mary's College, Maryborough.

Student Responsibilities

Students must not be in possession of, use, supply or sell any electronic cigarettes or vaping products when at St Mary's College, when walking to and from school and when in school uniform.

Parent and Caregiver Responsibilities

St Mary's College encourages parents and caregivers to discuss the health dangers associated with electronic cigarettes and vaping products with their children and reinforce the College's expectations regarding this.

School Responsibilities

The school will embed differentiated health, safety and wellbeing education into the curriculum and through wellbeing programs, including a focus on the risks associated with vaping products such as e-cigarettes, e-cigars and vape pens. The school will respond to student possession of, use, supply or selling of any electronic cigarettes or vaping products in a consistent, firm and fair manner in line with the below consequences.

Typical consequences

Consideration will always be given to the individual circumstances of each student; however, the below consequences may typically apply.

Consideration will always be given regarding appropriate sanctions based on the Schools plan that respond to the incident which considers a student's behaviour history, age, development, cultural and social situation.

Possession or use of electronic cigarettes or vaping products	1 st instance – 3-day suspension 2 nd instance – 5-day suspension
Supply or sale of electronic cigarettes or vaping products	1 st instance – 5-day suspension 2 nd instance – 7-day suspension

All students who receive a suspension for possessing, using, supplying or selling vapes will be required to engage in the re-entry process, as well as an educational session about the dangers of vaping upon their return to school. An information pack for parents will also be provided at the time of the meeting. Other consequences may include engagement with a monitoring book and detentions.

It is important to note that the College may rely on multiple, consistent student statements as sufficient evidence when determining breaches of the Vaping Policy. Where independent student accounts corroborate the same incident, this may be considered credible and reasonable evidence to support school decision-making, even in the absence of physical evidence.