



# MENTONE GIRLS' SECONDARY COLLEGE

## Anti Smoking policy

### **The aim of this policy is to develop a smoke free school.**

The policy is based on a harm minimisation approach and implemented using a whole school approach. The whole school approach looks at curriculum and teaching practice, community and parent partnerships and school organisation, ethos and environment.

Tobacco education is best delivered in the context of the school health education.

A smoke free environment is when nobody is allowed to smoke in or on the school grounds and students are not allowed to smoke on their way to and from school. All school functions are smoke free.

The guidelines are also in accordance with the policy requirement for all Victorian Government buildings and workplaces to be smoke-free. According to the Department of Education & Training's (DE&T) Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide:

- No student is permitted to smoke during school-sponsored activities.
- All students are to receive prevention education within the school's health education program about the dangers of smoking.

It is strongly recommended that in order to provide practice that is consistent with health education aims, our school seeks to achieve a completely smoke-free school environment through the development of appropriate school policy.

### **What to do with students who are caught smoking**

**Student use of tobacco products is primarily a health issue.**

#### **Explanation -**

A combination of the health risks of tobacco smoking, the high levels of experimentation of young people, and the rapid onset of nicotine dependence requires all members of the school community to be vigilant about tobacco smoking. The sooner a student is identified and

counselled when experimenting with tobacco, the greater the possibility of intervening before dependence has developed, and consequently the greater the likelihood of helping a young person to avoid developing a life-long smoking habit.

There will of course be some disciplinary sanctions imposed on students who smoke at school. In the case of smoking it is preferable that a range of options be explored before disciplinary action is taken.

Each case will be handled individually taking into account a number of issues e.g. level of dependency, connectedness to school, personal risk factors, whether intervention will do more harm than good. (An incident may be deemed to be; a student caught smoking, smelling of smoke or possessing cigarettes) This means students may be treated differently for committing similar offences.

## **Process**

### **1st incident**

Inform parents (phone call/form letter see attachment)

Establish level of dependency.

Educate about dependence and harms of smoking

(Student Managers and Health teachers will do this)

Confiscate cigarettes/establish source of supply

Develop a contract management plan, including education and disciplinary consequences if smoking continues at school. (see sample plan attached)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent incidents**

Inform parents by phone/letter requesting a meeting.

Follow suggestions above in first incident.

Disciplinary consequences will be implemented as per the management plan if contract has not been followed.

Provide support counselling and/or referral.

Develop a further management plan and positive reinforcement.

## **School consequences**

School consequences are listed here to help staff and students see that the school, as well as trying to help the student from becoming dependent on smoking or help the student overcome their smoking dependence, does need to set consequences for breaking school rules/policy.

Parents will always be informed of a smoking incident

At the first incident a management plan will be developed.

Second or further offences will follow an increasing scale of discipline.

- Detention, lunchtime or after school. Students may be required to undertake yard duty and pick up any cigarette butts from the school grounds.
- Loss of access to school grounds at lunchtime and/or recess.
- Internal/external suspension