

St. Aloysius' College Smoke Free Policy

St. Aloysius' College (SAC) is a smoke free school

Rationale

From **13 April 2015** the amended *Tobacco Act 1987* (Vic) bans smoking within the grounds of, and at and within four metres of an entrance (pedestrian access points) to, all Victorian primary and secondary schools premises. This includes all Government, independent and Catholic schools. The ban therefore applies when other activities are taking place on school grounds, such as fetes or sporting events and school holiday programs as well as during school hours.

SAC recognises that role modelling can have a significant impact on students, and smokefree areas make smoking less visible and less socially acceptable. **SAC** believes that smoking bans denormalise smoking and discourages students from taking up smoking. **SAC** recognises that exposure to second hand smoke is harmful to health and that the school community has a right to be protected.

Accordingly, the following smoke free policy has been developed by **SAC**.

Who is affected by the policy

SAC's policy applies to all staff members, students, visitors, contractors and volunteers of **SAC** at all times.

Timing

This policy is effective from **23.11.15**

Smoke free areas

Under the *Tobacco Act 1987* (Vic) smoking is banned within the grounds of, and within four metres of an entrance to, all Victorian primary and secondary schools. This includes all Government, independent and Catholic schools. The ban applies at all times, no matter whether the building or school grounds are being used for education purposes or other purposes. The ban therefore applies when other activities are taking place on school grounds, such as fetes or sporting events and school holiday programs as well as during school hours.

The totally smoke free status of our school will be clearly signed at the entrance to, and within school grounds. This smoke free policy will be promoted within the school and in external school publications e.g. newsletters, website.

Supporting staff members who smoke

To help staff members who wish to cut down or stop smoking, SAC will provide assistance for people to adjust to the changes. This includes: promoting the Quitline (13 7848)

- providing printed health information

Following the policy for staff

Staff should not smoke on site or within view of the pupils.

This smoke free policy is an integral part of our existing workplace health and safety policies. Staff adherence to this policy is a condition of employment at SAC.

Staff members are reminded that they are obliged, under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic), to protect the health of their fellow workers. The responsibility for enforcing the policy rests with all staff.

Any breach of this policy will lead to the normal disciplinary procedures being applied.

Any staff member who has a grievance relating to this policy should speak to the Health and Safety Officer or appropriate representative.

Staff cannot be disciplined for smoking away from the school, in their own time. (However, SAC can expand their smokefree policy to include banning smoking behaviours at externally held school events such as school camps, sporting events, formals, etc.)

Following the policy for students

SAC views smoking primarily as a health issue and believe smoking prevention education is best delivered within the context of the school curriculum where the whole-of-school approach to health and wellbeing is evident. **SAC** will educate students and parents on addiction and the health effects of smoking.

In the first instance of a student not following the smoke free policy, a **SAC** teacher or staff member will follow established student welfare and management procedures and remind the student of the health risk of smoking.

In the event of further incidents of smoking by the same student, a teacher or staff member of **SAC** will again remind the student of the policy and associated health risks, along with offering counselling, quit support information and resources, including Quitline (13 7848).

SAC will notify parents of any disciplinary action taken.

Following the policy for visitors

There is strong community support for banning smoking at areas where students are present. This means most people will voluntarily comply with the smoking ban and expect others to do so.

If a person is smoking in a non-smoking area, staff members should:

1. Assume that the person is unaware of the policy.
2. Politely ask them to refrain from smoking (or move to a smoking area) and remind them about the smoke free policy.