



11 October 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I write regarding the recent news that the government is cracking down on the sales of illegal vapes. As of 1 October, e-cigarette devices, or vapes, containing nicotine will only be available in chemists with a doctor's prescription meaning that medical professionals now have a say in whether or not a person should be inhaling toxic substances.

The change is to discourage teenagers from forming a lifelong nicotine addiction that can lead to adverse health conditions. Although already illegal to sell, purchase and possess, e-cigarette devices have surged in popularity in Australia. Despite being illegal, vape devices have become commonplace amongst school-aged children, which is why I am sharing this correspondence with you.

Due to the change in legislation regarding the sale of e-cigarettes, as of 11 October, the following conditions apply to students found to be involved with vaping:

Selling and or Distributing e-cigarettes/Vapes

First offence: 20-day suspension pending exclusion with the likelihood of an exclusion from the school.

In Possession and using a Vape

First offence: 10-day suspension.

In Possession of a Vape

First offence: 10-day suspension.

As with all suspensions we will consider all individual circumstances into account prior to implementing consequences.

See the school's [Code of Conduct](#) here.

If you would like more information about the dangers of vaping, please follow the link to these two articles

[**Dakota's doctors thought she might have COVID, but it was vaping that put her in ICU**](#)

[**What should parents say when their teen says "But it's not smoking" when they find out they're vaping?**](#)

[**Vaping by teenagers on rise as tobacco companies try to hook a new generation on smoking**](#)

This is very much a community problem and our young people need our guidance and help to stop them from self-harming with these addictive and dangerous devices.

Regards,

Chris Capra
Executive Principal