

Smoke Free Premises Policy

Rationale

A smoke free school provides an environment that protects and promotes the health and well-being of the entire school community and smoking is not permitted on the school grounds. This is also a requirement of the Tobacco Control Act (the Act) and the Tobacco Control Regulations (the Regulations). For the purposes of this policy smoking includes electronic cigarettes.

An exemption option exists for schools through section 11(1) of the Act and section 10 of the Regulations. These provisions enable schools to have a designated smoking area, referred to as the exempt area, within the school grounds provided the conditions of the Act and Regulations are met.

Schools must hold a formal secret ballot of all staff at the commencement of each school year to determine if the majority of staff favour or do not favour having an exempt area within the school grounds.

Policy Statement

In accordance with DoE's current Smoke-Free Premises Policy: *Smoking is not permitted on any Department of Education and Training premises including school grounds, except in exempted areas.*

If a vote shows the majority of staff are in favour of having an exempt area the principal must be satisfied that the school has the ability to meet the exempt area criteria before approving its creation. Smoking outside of exempted areas is against the law and may result in penalties for the smoker and the department/school.

An exempt area has strict conditions which must be applied to its location including:

- it must be a defined outdoor area
- it must be outside of school buildings and must not be a common access area
- it must not be visible or normally accessible to students
- it must be located at least two metres from doorways and three metres from air conditioning inlets.

All community groups that use the school must comply with this policy.



Aims

The principal will need to ensure that:

- this policy is enforced in the school
- community groups that use the premises are aware of and comply with this policy
- if a discrete smoking area is provided it must comply with all the requirements of the legislation

All staff:

- are responsible for complying with this policy

Implementation

We will promote our commitment to providing a smoke free environment by:

- informing new staff and parents about the DoE policy and our own policy
- advising contractors and others working within our school premises of our Smoke free Policy
- ensuring that organisations/individuals using school facilities agree to comply with our policy
- taking opportunities to participate in appropriate educational initiatives to promote non-smoking, eg Healthy Harold

Resources

- Department of Education's Smoke Free Premises Policy
https://education.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/258111/Smoke-Free-Premises-policy-Final-2016.pdf
- *Tobacco Control Act* and Tobacco Control Regulations

Evaluation

Our Smoke Free Premises Policy's effectiveness will be measured through implementation over a period of time.

Effective Term 2, 2017
Date of next Review Term 2, 2019
Developed by Leadership Team

