



## ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE POLICY

### Electronic Cigarette

An electronic cigarette can also be called an e-cigarette, e-cigar, vape, vape pen or personal vapour.

An electronic cigarette is considered to be a smoking product under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 and cannot be sold to children under 18 years of age. In Australia, it is illegal to sell or buy nicotine for use in an electronic cigarette.

This policy applies to electronic cigarettes that do and do not contain nicotine.

### Responsibilities

#### Students

Students must not bring property onto school grounds or other settings used by the school that:

- is prohibited according to the school's Prohibited Items Policy.
- is illegal.
- puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk.
- does not preserve a caring, safe, supportive or productive learning environment.
- does not maintain and foster mutual respect.

#### Parent/Carer

Parents/Carers must ensure their child does not bring property onto school grounds or other settings used by the school that:

- is prohibited according to the school's Prohibited Items Policy.
- is illegal.
- puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk.
- does not preserve a caring, safe, supportive or productive learning environment.
- does not maintain and foster mutual respect.

#### School

The school must inform parents/carers of school policies and procedures.

Staff must follow school policies and procedures.

### Safety Concerns

An electronic cigarette may:

- deliver unreliable doses of nicotine
- leak their contents
- be a poisoning risk, particularly for children
- not list the presence and/or actual strength of nicotine on the product label
- contain other unknown, possibly toxic chemicals
- have incorrect or inconsistent labelling and unsafe packaging
- encourage the uptake of smoking
- have no child safety measures, and
- be unsafe to use during pregnancy.

Many electronic cigarette cartridges also contain other potentially harmful ingredients such as propylene glycol (a solvent to produce fog or smoke used in theatrical productions), polyester compounds, anti-freeze, or vegetable glycerine.

Nicotine is a dangerous poison and can cause serious injury and death. It can be absorbed through the skin.

Liquid nicotine refill for electronic cigarettes are particularly dangerous to younger children who might be attracted by the packaging and the use of fruit and confectionery flavouring, such as chocolate, bubble gum, apple, and watermelon.



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The median lethal dose of nicotine has been estimated to be 6.5–13 mg/kg; hence, an accidental ingestion of one tablespoon of commercially available liquid nicotine refill is sufficient to induce irreversible damage or death, particularly in children.

### Consequence Guidelines

Electronic Cigarettes are a prohibited item as outlined in the school's Prohibited Items Policy.

The following consequences are a guide only.

All students participate in an educational lesson at the start of each school year. Additional opportunities for education will be provided.

#### **Possession and use of Electronic Cigarette:**

Consequences do not reset each term.

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Offence:

- Electronic cigarette is permanently confiscated.
- Student to complete the educational lesson during lunch breaks. (refusal to follow staff instruction may lead to an extended withdrawal)
- Student referred to Youth Health Nurse for counselling.

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Offence:

- Electronic cigarette is permanently confiscated.
- Parent/carer notified.
- 1 week lunch time withdrawal and completion of Electronic Cigarette Education Program.
- (refusal to follow staff instructions may result in a 3 day suspension).
- Student referred to Youth Health Nurse for counselling.

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> Offence:

- Electronic cigarette is permanently confiscated.
- Parent/carer notified.
- May result in a 3 day suspension.
- Individualised support plan developed by Head of Department Student Services.
- Referral to external support agency (eg. ATODs, Lives lived well, Dovetail).

#### **Distribution/Supply of Electronic Cigarette:**

Consequences do not reset each term.

- Electronic cigarette is permanently confiscated.
- Parent/carer notified.
- Police notified.
- Consequence issued – may include suspension.
- Continued breaches of the Student Code of Conduct may lead to exclusion.



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### Consideration of Individual Circumstances

Staff at Gordonvale State High School take into account students' individual circumstances, such as their behaviour history, verified disability, diagnosed mental health and wellbeing, religious and cultural considerations, home environment and care arrangements when teaching expectations, responding to inappropriate behaviour or applying a disciplinary consequence.

In considering the individual circumstances of each student, we recognise that the way we teach, the support we provide and the way we respond to students will differ. This reflects the principle of equality, where every student is given the support they need to be successful. This also means that not everyone will be treated the same, because treating everyone the same is not fair.

Our teachers are also obliged by law to respect and protect the privacy of individual students, so while we understand the interest of other students, staff and parents to know what punishment another student might have received, we will not disclose or discuss this information with anyone but the student's family. This applies even if the behavioural incident involves your child. You can be assured that school staff take all matters seriously and will address them appropriately. We expect that parents and students will respect the privacy of other students and families.

If you have concerns about the behaviour of another student at the school, or the way our staff have responded to their behaviour, please make an appointment with the Principal to discuss the matter.

### Help and Support

Gordonvale State High School Youth Health Nurse  
Appointments can be made with the Youth Health Nurse through the school office.

Cairns Community Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATODS)  
Monday to Friday: 8 :00am to 4:00pm  
8 Aplin Street, Cairns  
Phone: 07 4226 3900

Quitline  
Quitline is a telephone service dedicated to helping Queensland quit smoking. Call Quitline on 137848.  
<https://quithq.initiatives.qld.gov.au/quit-support/quitline/get-help-from-quitline/>

Quit Smoking Brochures  
<https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/quit-smoking-brochures>

### Consultation

The Gordonvale State High School Electronic Cigarette Policy was developed in consultation with the school community, including:

- Teaching and non-teaching staff
- Student Council
- P&C



## ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE POLICY

### Review

The Gordonvale State High School Electronic Cigarette Policy will undergo annual minor updates to reflect changing circumstances, data and staff.

A fulsome review is conducted every four years in line with the scheduled review process for the School Planning, Reviewing and Reporting cycle.

### Endorsement

The Gordonvale State High School Electronic Cigarette Policy has been informed by:

- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
- Department of Education: Student Discipline Procedure
- Gordonvale State High School Student Code of Conduct
- Gordonvale State High School Prohibited Items Policy
- Gordonvale State High School Temporary Removal of Student Property Policy
- Queensland Health: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/electronic-cigarettes>