



Topic:	Smoke Free Schools
Policy No reference (CECWA):	2-C7
Policy Area:	Stewardship
Date of Review:	2020

‘Catholic schools can serve as models for all within Western Australia who seek to create genuine communities. Such communities are always founded upon shared commitment to the common good’ (Mandate, paragraph 6, page 7)¹.

The Tobacco Products Control Act 2006 legislates against smoking in enclosed public places and the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 requires an employer, so far as practicable, to provide and maintain a working environment in which the employees are not exposed to hazards.

Catholic schools in Western Australia are smoke-free environments due to the acknowledged health hazards of exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) and to comply with legislative requirements.

This policy statement addresses the issue of smoking in schools. In promulgating this policy, CECWA acknowledges that smoking can adversely affect the health of both smokers and non-smokers.

Definitions

Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) is a combination of side stream smoke (smoke from the burning end of a tobacco product) and exhaled mainstream smoke (the smoke breathed out by the smoker).

Scope

This policy applies to all Catholic schools in Western Australia.

Principles

The legislative requirements of the Tobacco Products Control Act 2006 and the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 shall be adhered to in all Catholic schools.

Catholic schools’ formalise their commitment to providing a safe environment for all school users by going beyond the legislated smoking bans, in order to further minimise the acknowledged health hazards associated with ETS.

Procedures

Mel Maria shall maintain a total smoke free environment at all times. This includes but is not limited to any Mel Maria School buildings

- Enclosed public areas;
 - Grounds (including the land up to the boundaries on which buildings are located);
 - Playgrounds;
 - In vehicles on a school site; and
 - In vehicles transporting students
 - Either during or outside of school hours.
1. This prohibition applies to all persons on the Mel Maria school site, including school camp and excursion venues, and applies to parents, students, staff and visitors.
 2. The Principal shall ensure that, during the process of appointment of staff prospective employees are made aware that the school is a smoke free environment.
 3. The Principal shall ensure that the parents, students and visitors are made aware that the school and all school activities are smoke-free environments.
 4. Buildings and grounds shall have 'No Smoking' signs prominently displayed.
 5. Whilst all staff in Catholic schools share a responsibility for ensuring compliance With this Policy statement, the Principal shall ensure that school staff comply. Staff members who breach this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.
 6. An Employee Assistance Program is available to assist those staff who are considering quitting smoking.

Related Documents

- Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984
- Tobacco Products Control Act 2006
- Teachers' and Non Teachers' Enterprise Bargaining Agreements Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy Statements
- 2-C14 'Occupational Safety and Health'
- 2-C8 Termination of Services of Staff Members – Incompetency or Misconduct

Year of Review History	
1999	<i>Originally Released</i>
2003	<i>Reviewed</i>
2007	<i>Reviewed</i>
2011	<i>Reformatted</i>
2016	<i>Reviewed</i>

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Year of Review:	Reviewed by:	Amendments/Review
1991	SPC	Originally Released
1994	SPC	Reviewed
1997	SPC	Reviewed

2001	SPC	Reviewed
2006	SPC	Reviewed
2010	CEOWA	Reformatted
2011	SPC	Reviewed

9. Next Review

Year:	CEOWA Standing Committee Responsible
2016	School Personnel Committee

