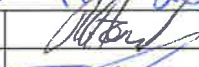





Red Cliffs Secondary College

Council Policy

Policy Title:		Students Smoking	
Date Ratified by Council:		October 14th 2016.	
Council President:	Philip Hand	Signature:	
Principal:	David Browne	Signature:	

Rationale

The uptake of smoking occurs predominantly among teenagers and procedures have been established to discourage the practice of smoking.

Smoking is not permitted in any government buildings and on government grounds. Red Cliffs Secondary College recognises the danger smoking and passive smoking causes to health and has established a policy to ensure that the entire school grounds are smoke free.

Red Cliffs Secondary College supports the introduction of a smoke free environment. We believe that it is important to make every effort to set a positive example for young people about health matters in general and tobacco prevention education in particular.

Smoking is not permitted in any area of the school property, nor at any school related activity or function, by students, staff or visitors. Smoking is not permitted within 3 metres of school property as indicated by signage.

This smoking policy is based upon the principle of harm minimisation. “Harm minimisation involves a range of approaches to prevent or reduce drug related harm”

Aims

To assist with reducing smoking amongst students, staff and visitors.

To intervene early in a student’s smoking pathway, this will help students avoid developing a smoking dependence.

To support student compliance with the school’s smoke free policy.

Guidelines

- The privacy of the student will be respected as far as possible.
- While the student’s non-compliance with school policy needs to be addressed, the main focus of the intervention should be concerned with the student’s health.
- Other than in Health/PE classes, in no instance should students be required to complete assignments or attend courses to ‘learn the danger of smoking’ to make them stop. Research shows people are more likely to cut down or stop smoking when they are involved in making their own choices.

At all times, staff members should aim to:

- Inform students of the health consequences of smoking.
- Advise students of smokefree school policy.
- Provide students with available resources and/or referrals when requested.
- Be smokefree role models.

Implementation

First Incident

- Student meets with their Sub School Co-ordinator.
- The Sub School Co-ordinator offers background information on smoking (Smoke Free Schools Tobacco Prevention and Management Guidelines for Victorian Schools, pages 48 & 49, Information sheets – “Tobacco & Smoking”, “Did you know?” and student may be invited to ring the Quitline 131 848, or access Quit Victoria’s website - www.quit.org.au) and presents school policy position on smoke free schools.
- Student and the Sub School Co-ordinator discuss the smoking incident and student is offered an opportunity to meet with the Secondary School Nurse.
- The Sub School Co-ordinator and student determine appropriate method for compliance with school policy. (See student code of conduct for possible sanctions) Student is offered the opportunity to complete a Non-smoking contract management plan. (Smoke Free Schools Tobacco Prevention and Management Guidelines for Victorian Schools, page 50)
- The parent / guardian is informed.

Second Incident

- The Sub School Co-ordinator meets with student to reiterate school smoking policy procedures and discussion from initial meeting.
- Student is again offered an opportunity to meet with the Secondary School Nurse.
- The Sub School Co-ordinator offers information on smoking and student is invited to ring the Quitline 131 848 or access Quit Victoria’s website - www.quit.org.au.
- Inform parents/guardians regarding school policy non-compliance. (Smoke Free Schools Tobacco Prevention and Management Guidelines for Victorian Schools, page 42, “sample letter – Smoking incident”) Parents could be invited to ring the Quitline or access Quit Victoria’s website - www.quit.org.to to obtain information on helping their child to stop smoking.
- The Sub School Co-ordinator, student and their parents determine appropriate method for compliance with school policy. (See student code of conduct for possible sanctions) Student is offered the opportunity to complete a Non-smoking contract management plan. (Smoke Free Schools Tobacco Prevention and Management Guidelines for Victorian Schools, page 50)

Third Incident

- The student’s non-compliance with school policy is important in this instance. The Sub School Coordinator to meet with student to outline standard procedure regarding non-compliance with school policy. (See student code of conduct for possible sanctions)
- The student may request further assistance to cut down or stop smoking; this should be addressed, but is not a reason for non-compliance with school policy.
- The parent / guardian is informed.

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed at the start of each year.
- This policy will be ratified by College Council as part of the school’s four year review cycle.