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| Topic: | Smoke Free Schools |
| Policy No: | 2-C7 |
| Policy Area: | Stewardship |
| Standing Committee: | School Personnel Committee |
| Date Promulgated: | 1991 |
| Date for Review: | 2016 |

1. Rationale

'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.

2. 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).

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Catholic schools in Western Australia.

4. Principles

4.1 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.

4.2 Catholic schools² 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.

5. Procedures

- 5.1 Schools shall maintain a total smoke free environment at all times. This includes but is not limited to:
- any Catholic school building;
 - 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.
- 5.2 This prohibition applies to all persons on a Catholic school site, including school camp and excursion venues, and applies to parents, students, staff and visitors.
- 5.3 Principals shall ensure that, during the process of appointment of staff prospective employees are made aware that the school is a smoke free environment.
- 5.4 Principals shall ensure that the parents, students and visitors are made aware that the school and all school activities are smoke-free environments. ¹
- 5.5 Buildings and grounds shall have 'No Smoking' signs prominently displayed.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 An Employee Assistance Program is available to assist those staff who are considering quitting smoking.

6. References

¹ Mandate of the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia 2009 – 2015

7. 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

8. Review History

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

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

9. Next Review

| Year: | CEOWA Standing Committee Responsible |
|--------------|---|
| 2016 | School Personnel Committee |