

Primary Schools

Benchmarks for Tobacco Control



Healthy policies

1. A whole-school tobacco policy is in place.

- The policy addresses smokefree practices on school premises and at all school sanctioned events, and has a harm minimisation focus that incorporates an agreed process of intervention to provide support when responding to young people who are dependent smokers.
- Staff, families and students are involved in guiding tobacco policy and practices.
- Staff, families and students are provided with information about policy requirements.
- Cultural tobacco practices are considered when developing and implementing this policy.
- The policy is cross-referenced with, and complements other relevant policies (e.g. alcohol and other drugs, student engagement).
- The policy can be stand-alone or incorporated into a whole-school health and wellbeing policy.

2. The school has a staff health and wellbeing policy which supports smokefree practices.

Healthy physical environment

3. The school provides a totally smokefree environment.

- Smokefree signage is clearly displayed at entrances, office reception and other key visible locations.
- All school sanctioned events (on/off premises); including camps, excursions, sporting events, fetes and celebrations are totally smokefree.
- Contract agreements with stakeholders, suppliers, providers of services and users of school facilities ensure compliance with the tobacco legislation.

Healthy social environment

4. Staff and young people who smoke are supported to quit or manage their smoking.

- Staff and young people who smoke are supported with counselling and/or referrals to health professionals.
- A collaborative partnership is established between the school, parents and health professionals when supporting a young dependent smoker.

5. Staff and families recognise they are role models and smokefree behaviour.

- Staff, school contractors, parents and visitors model smokefree behaviour and refrain from smoking whilst in view of students.
- Staff promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and being smokefree.

Learning and skills

6. Tobacco prevention education is incorporated into the curriculum from foundation to year 6.

- Tobacco education provides interactive teaching strategies that build students' knowledge, problem solving, decision making and resilience skills.
- Tobacco education identifies norms, influences, risks and strategies to avoid harm.
- Tobacco education is responsive to topical community issues.
- Tobacco education is delivered in one or more key learning areas of the curriculum.

7. Staff are supported to access resources, tools and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to deliver tobacco education and prevention initiatives across the curriculum.

Engaging children, young people, staff and families

8. Families, students and staff are key partners in developing and supporting smokefree initiatives.

- Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies on a regular basis to promote and support smokefree behaviour at school and at home.
- Students are consulted about smokefree initiatives via school council, student action teams or other representative structures.
- Student learning about tobacco is complemented by opportunities to share their knowledge with peers, families and the community.

- d) Families are encouraged to be involved in smokefree initiatives at school.
- e) Staff are encouraged to develop competencies to facilitate engagement of families and students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Community partnerships

- 9. Staff are encouraged to work with local health professionals, services and organisations to increase their capacity to deliver and promote tobacco education and prevention initiatives.**
- a) Links are established with local health professionals, services and organisations to support smokefree initiatives.
- b) Partner organisations comply with smokefree strategies identified in the school's tobacco policy at school events on and off site.
- c) The school provides information to staff and families about local support to quit smoking as required.