



Department of
Education

WA Schools Anti-Vaping Toolkit

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Shaping the future

Acknowledgement of Country



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WA Schools Anti-Vaping Toolkit

The Anti-Vaping Toolkit is a collection of resources and creative assets designed to raise awareness of the health risks of using e-cigarettes.

The Toolkit aims to:

- increase awareness about vapes and the health risks of vaping among school staff, parents/carers and students
- address the myths and misconceptions around vaping.



WA Schools Anti-Vaping Toolkit

The Toolkit contains a suite of online resources for public, Catholic and independent schools that includes:

- information on e-cigarettes and vaping
- a recorded professional learning presentation for school staff, developed in collaboration with the Department of Health, and Cancer Council WA
- a teaching and learning resource aligned to the WA Curriculum.

Access the Toolkit at:

myresources.education.wa.edu/vaping



Information for school staff

The Toolkit provides information based on frequently asked questions that includes:

- Safe handling and disposal
- Department policies to assist with managing incidents involving e-cigarette use
- Where to access information and support
- WA laws relating to e-cigarettes
- Actions to address incidents involving students and the possession, supply, or use of a vaping device.

Department of Education
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GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOLS ABOUT VAPING

WHAT ARE ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES (E-CIGARETTES, VAPES)?

Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes (vapes) are battery operated devices that heat a liquid (e-liquid) to produce a vapour to inhale. Using an e-cigarette is often called 'vaping'. Vapes include both disposable e-cigarettes, such as 'Cuvies' and 'Stigs', and pod devices, such as JUUL.

ARE E-CIGARETTES SAFE TO HANDLE?

Research has found that some e-liquids sold as "nicotine-free" contain nicotine. Nicotine is a highly addictive and poisonous drug.

E-liquids also pose a poisoning risk.

Reports of combustion events and burns have been reported to Worksafe WA. You can read more about this in the [Safety bulletin-01/2021- Hazards associated with the use of e-cigarette devices.](#)

HOW DO I DISPOSE OF AN E-CIGARETTE OR VAPING DEVICE/COMPONENT?

If you find e-cigarette devices on your school site:

- Use caution when handling the devices as they can combust or cause burns.
- Store them in a dry place away from sunlight, heat (less than 35o Celsius) and humidity. Access more information about battery storage from [Planet Ark.](#)
- Dispose of devices through a waste removal service that is capable of disposing lithium batteries and liquid nicotine (a poison). Do not place them in general waste.

Note:

- If your school has a current contract for waste removal services (for example, general rubbish bins, and battery collection), check with the contractor if they can provide a suitable solution for the removal of e-cigarettes.
- You may need to vary the existing contract to include this within its scope. For more information, refer to [Buy goods and services under \\$50,000.](#)

If your current contractor does not have capability, or you do not have a contract for waste removal, you can engage directly with a supplier or contact 2 or 3 local suppliers and ask for quotes. For more information, refer to [Follow rules for buying goods and services.](#)

WHAT ARE THE RELATED DEPARTMENT POLICIES TO ASSIST SCHOOLS TO MANAGE INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE USE OF E-CIGARETTES AND/OR VAPING DEVICES?

Department of Education policies:

- Appendix A Department Standards for Maintaining a Smoke-Free Workplace in the WHS Procedures
- Student Behaviour in Public Schools Policy
- Student Behaviour in Public Schools Procedures
- School guidelines and reporting procedures;
- School incident management and intervention support policies.

WHAT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO INFORM STUDENTS, PARENTS/CARERS, STAFF ABOUT E-CIGARETTES AND/OR VAPING DEVICES?

Access resources and information about e-cigarettes and vaping on the myresource.education.wa.edu.au/vaping. This includes teaching and learning resources aligned to the Western Australian Curriculum.

Resources for parents and carers

- The Toolkit provides a range of resources for parents and carers.
- Parent resources are available from the Department of Education website: education.wa.edu.au/drug-education

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Department of Education
Department of Health

THE FACTS ABOUT VAPING

There are many different styles of electronic cigarettes or 'vapes' available. The biggest misunderstanding about vapes is that they are harmless compared to cigarettes. **This is not true. Vapes are not safe.** Spotting vapes can be difficult because they often resemble common school items like highlighter pens, markers and USB drives. Knowing the different shapes and types of vapes is a first step to help protect young people from the risks of vaping.

COMMON VAPES

Disposable vapes are the most common vapes used by young people. They can contain between 300 to over 4,000 'puffs' in each device. They often range in price from \$15 to \$50, depending on the number of 'puffs' the device contains. Many of these vapes contain nicotine, despite of ten not being labelled as containing nicotine.

Vapes can also come in pod-style or refillable devices, where the user refills the device with e-liquids or new pods containing e-liquids. These devices don't seem to be as popular with young people.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE VAPING?
education.wa.edu.au

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Department of Education
Department of Health

THE FACTS VAPING

Cigarettes, often called 'vapes', are electronic devices designed to deliver nicotine. There are many different styles of vapes available and they can be made from a variety of materials. The most common is propylene glycol, vegetable glycerine or glycerol, and they often also contain other chemicals. Vapes may contain harmful chemicals that aren't found in cigarettes.

One of the biggest misunderstandings about vapes is that they are harmless compared to cigarettes. This is not true. Vapes are not safe.

KNOW WHAT THEY'RE VAPING?

FRUITY

The nicotine in 1 vape can **= 50 cigarettes**

Young people who vape are **3 times** as likely to take up smoking

Vapes can contain the same **harmful chemicals** found in cleaning products, nail polish remover, weed killer and bug spray

Vapes come in a variety of designs and styles and can be **easy to conceal**

Drug education





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Contact us

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