

# Smoke-free Environment Policy

## Policy Statement & Commitments

---

Brunswick East Primary School Outside School Hours Care Service (BEPS OSHC Service) has a duty of care under occupational health and safety legislation to provide a safe and healthy environment for educators, including students and volunteers, and the children and their families who utilise BEPS OSHC Service. BEPS OSHC Service is a smoke-free environment, and does not permit smoking of any substance in any areas utilised by children and educators, or closely surrounding areas.

Smoking is strictly prohibited on the school grounds at all times.

### BEPS OSHC Service is committed to:

- ensuring that children are educated and cared for in a smoke free environment
- ensuring that children are prevented from witnessing and possible modelling the behaviours of people who smoke
- ensuring that information is provided to the community about the dangers of smoking, and strategies for protecting children from the risks associated with passive smoking.

## Definitions

---

**Environment** – Refers to BEPS OSHC Service premises and outdoor areas, public areas (footpath) located around the perimeter of the school grounds, footpaths, and car park.

## Procedures

---

- Educators, parents and children will be protected from the health hazards and discomforts associated with exposure to tobacco smoke.
- Smoking by employees will only be permitted in the employee's own time away from children's view and away from the vicinity of the school grounds.
- Parents, family members or relatives of children enrolled at BEPS OSHC Service will not be permitted to smoke on the premises and will adhere to this Smoke Free Environment Policy.
- Any person smoking in BEPS OSHC Service environment will be immediately escorted from the premises and informed of this policy.

Approved	June 2017	Review date:	June 2019
----------	-----------	--------------	-----------

- Employees smoking in BEPS OSHC Service environment will be subject to disciplinary action.
- No smoking signs are displayed at the main entrance in the sign-in, sign-out area.
- BEPS OSHC Service understands that it cannot prevent community members who choose to smoke as they walk past the premises; however, if community members choose to stop and smoke on the perimeter of the school grounds, they will be asked by educators to move away from the children’s environment.

## **General Information**

---

Environmental tobacco smoke consists of two different types of smoke:

- exhaled mainstream smoke, which is the smoke breathed out by a person smoking a cigarette
- side-stream smoke, which is the smoke that is released from a burning cigarette

In children, passive smoke can contribute to the following conditions:

- sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS, or cot death)
- lower birth weight, resulting from exposure to tobacco smoke in-utero
- bronchitis, pneumonia and other airway infections
- asthma
- middle ear disease and infections
- respiratory symptoms, including coughing and wheezing.

Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke for children can lead to:

- adverse effects on cognition and behaviour
- decreased lung function
- worsening of cystic fibrosis
- meningococcal disease.

### **This policy should be read in conjunction with:**

General Service Information Policy  
Code of Professional Conduct  
OH&S  
Establishing a Protective Care Environment

### **Sources**

---

Quit Victoria, *Effects of smoking on children*, [www.quit.org.au/about/frequently-asked-questions/faqs-passive-smoking/effects-children.html](http://www.quit.org.au/about/frequently-asked-questions/faqs-passive-smoking/effects-children.html)

Department of Human Services, Better Health Channel, *Asthma, Children and Smoking*, [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Asthma\\_children\\_and\\_smoking?open](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Asthma_children_and_smoking?open)

Centre for Community Child Health 2006, *Preventing passive smoking effects on children: Practice resource*, [www.rch.org.au/ccch](http://www.rch.org.au/ccch)

<b>Approved</b>	<i>June 2017</i>	<b>Review date:</b>	<i>June 2019</i>
-----------------	------------------	---------------------	------------------

<i>Education &amp; Care Services National Regulations (2011) – Regulations 82</i>
<i>National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care &amp; School Age Care (2010) – Standard 2.3; Element 2.3.2</i>
<i>DEEWR Child Care Service Handbook 2012–2013 – Section 6.7</i>
<i>Occupational Health &amp; Safety Act 2004 – OHS Regulations 2007</i>
<i>WorkSafe Victorian – Risk Management</i>

<b>Approved</b>	<i>June 2017</i>	<b>Review date:</b>	<i>June 2019</i>
-----------------	------------------	---------------------	------------------