

# Graffiti Smarts

How to prevent and reduce graffiti at your school

## How can I reduce and prevent graffiti vandalism to my school?

- **Maintain your school:** Broken windows, litter, broken fences, overgrown landscaping and poor lighting all send a message that property owners are not attentive or do not care, and these properties are more likely to be graffiti targets.
- **Design out crime:** Enhance lighting for natural surveillance and to increase feelings of safety. Incorporate natural deterrents such as trees, shrubs, etc, in your landscaping. Utilise graffiti-resistant materials or coatings. Paint walls with dark colours, colourful surfaces or textured surfaces as these are less likely to be targeted by graffiti.
- **Incorporate graffiti education and information** on prevention and reduction into classroom activities, after school activities and SRC activities. Educate students on the social, health, legal and economic costs of graffiti crime.
- **Teach students to quickly report graffiti** on the school grounds. Nominate a person within the school to be the point of contact for reporting and who can manage the photographing, reporting and removal of graffiti.
- **Consider a mentoring program** where older students teach younger students about graffiti crime and ways of preventing and reducing it.
- **Create a mural** at a graffiti hot-spot with the help of students, teachers and community volunteers. Develop relationships with local clubs that might be able to help with painting projects as well as local paint and hardware stores that might donate or provide cheap paints for projects. Make sure that OH&S issues are addressed with all painting projects.
- **Involve students in graffiti prevention and reduction** efforts, such as clean-ups or mural projects. Get the whole school community, including parents and students, involved in regular litter pick-ups and planting projects.

## INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS



Credit: Ben Miller, Location Launceston LINC

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# Graffiti

## Preventing and reducing it in the community

The City of Launceston has a zero-tolerance approach to graffiti and works with Tasmania Police, the local community and relevant agencies to support and generate activities that draw on social and environmental approaches to prevent, reduce and remove graffiti.

Currently, the City of Launceston only removes graffiti from their infrastructure and assets.

To view City of Launceston's Policy on Graffiti Prevention and Reduction, please visit [www.launceston.tas.gov.au](http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au)

### What is graffiti?

- **Graffiti is the marking of other people's property without their consent.** It can include writing (tagging), symbols, graphics, scratching (or scratchitti) or paper-based graphics (paste-ups).
- **Graffiti is illegal** unless the City of Launceston has designated a legalised area for it or the owner of a property has given permission for it. In the Launceston municipality, there are some legalised graffiti walls in a defined space at the Royal Park Skate Park. There are also legalised murals and other forms of street art on many privately-owned buildings which add to the uniqueness of the Launceston streetscape.
- **Graffiti has a high cost to the community** with social, health, legal and economic implications. In areas of high graffiti activity, it can also impact on perceptions of safety and public amenity.
- **Preventing graffiti requires everyone in the community to be active** and take ownership of the problem.

### What can I do if I find graffiti on my school?

- Photograph the graffiti for future identification. The graffiti may reveal a tag or signature particular to the offender. Some data shows that a 'fear of getting caught' is one of the reasons taggers stop tagging.
- Report the graffiti to Police on **131 444**. If you have information regarding graffiti vandals or people acting suspiciously, you can report anonymously to Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**.
- Remove or paint over the graffiti quickly. Research shows that removal within **24-48** hours deters further graffiti vandalism.

#### TIP!

**Speak to your local paint shop or hardware store to ensure you use the correct product for removal, as different surface types require different removal agents. Removal agents can include chemical or pressure washing with water or sand, depending on the surface. Also make sure that you use the correct personal protection equipment during removal to ensure your health and safety.**

Obtain the relevant authority's permission in writing before commencing painting or removal. Your Principal is the best first point of contact before commencing any painting or removal activities.

For heritage properties, you may need to obtain planning approval before repainting. For more advice on this, call the City of Launceston Development Planning Department on **03 6323 3000**.

### What if I find graffiti on other property?

If the graffiti is on City of Launceston-owned property, you can report it on **03 6323 3000**.

#### TIP!

**You can also use the Snap Send Solve phone app to report it. This is a free app for iPhones or Android smartphones that lets you report issues and provide feedback in under 30 seconds. It enables you to take a photo on your phone and then automatically sends it using your email address so that the City of Launceston can respond directly to you to solve the issue.**



If the graffiti is on a utility, such as a traffic or Telstra box, you can report it on:

**Australia Post 13 13 18**

**Telstra 180 22 44**

**Metro Tasmania 13 22 01**

**Aurora Energy 132 004**

If you are not sure who owns the property with graffiti, you can report it on **03 6323 3000**.



Credit JG Styles Location Sodium alley

