



MHSG SMOKING AND VAPING POLICY

1. Principles

- 1.1 The School is committed to promoting health and welfare and wishes to create a high quality, healthy and safe working environment for staff, pupils and visitors.
- 1.2 With the introduction of the Smoke Free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006, smoking became illegal in certain wholly or substantially enclosed public places. As well as being an offence to smoke in no smoking premises, it is also an offence to knowingly permit smoking in no smoking premises.
- 1.3 It is illegal to sell cigarettes or nicotine containing vapes to under-18s.
- 1.4 Cigarettes release thousands of different chemicals when they burn – many are poisonous and up to 70 cause cancer. Smoking poses significant issues for future health, both for the individual and those around them. ([NHS](#))
- 1.5 E-cigarettes (vapes) usually contain nicotine; vapes that claim to have no nicotine have been found to contain nicotine. The long-term health risks of vaping are currently unclear but using vapes can lead to addiction and potential exposure to cancer-causing chemicals – particularly if not purchased from reputable outlets. Nevertheless, vaping is not as harmful as smoking (according to current NHS research). Nonetheless, vaping and smoking promotes, in a school context, secretive and unsafe behaviours, presents health and safety risks and could lead to a willingness to try other addictive chemicals such as drugs.
- 1.6 Vaping is increasing among young people. UKAT reports that 7.5% of British children vape compared to 3.6% who smoke cigarettes. Young people can feel pressured to start vaping or smoking due to peer pressure.

2. School Approach to Students Being Found Smoking or/and Vaping

- 2.1 Smoking, smoking paraphernalia and vaping are prohibited at MHSG and such products should not be brought onto the school premises, used on bus transport to and from school, or taken on any trips or outings that take place as part of School life.
- 2.2 The School reserves the right to search a pupil and their belongings if they are suspected of carrying such items. (Refer to Searching and Confiscation Policy).

- 2.3 If a member of staff suspects or finds a student smoking or vaping, they should take note of the child's name and report the incident to the Heads of Section or the Deputy Head (Pastoral) as soon as possible.
- 2.4 Pupils who are caught or found to have been smoking or vaping on the school site or on any trips or outings will ordinarily be excluded for a fixed period of at least 48 hours and will need to sign a Behaviour Contract upon their return.
- 2.5 Parents will be informed if a pupil is found to have been smoking or vaping on the school site and will be encouraged to discourage such behaviours.
- 2.6 Subsequent offences may result in expulsion if the School is satisfied that the pupil's conduct has been prejudicial to good order or to the reputation of the School (See the Expulsion, Removal & Review Policy).
- 2.7 Selling or distributing smoking / vaping paraphernalia in school or on any trips or outings may result in expulsion.

3. Support for Pupils

- 3.1 Information and support for pupils will be provided through the Well Being programme.
- 3.2 Support can also be provided for pupils from the Pastoral Team and the School Nurses.

4. Associated Policies

- 4.1 This policy should be read alongside the following:
- Expulsion, Removal and Review Policy
 - Behaviour & Discipline Policy

Appendix: Vape Detection Procedures

When the sensors detect evidence of vaping or tapering, they will send an alert to all those on the contact list. They are:

Diana Bruce
Penny Scott
Jane Burley
Paula Bell
Lisa Tucker
Rachael Hill
Teresa Davey
Sarah Rowley
Simon Vance
Sarah Norton
Robert Crumpton
Liz Hamer

The alert will specify which Vape Alarm has triggered the alert. The vape detectors are located in the Starblock toilets, West Wing toilets, ground floor C corridor toilets and first floor C corridor toilets.

Actions

Any member of staff who receives the alert and is available should go to the location of the alert as soon as possible.

1. If there is a student(s) in the location, follow the guidance in the Smoking and Vaping Policy, summarised below:
 - The School reserves the right to search a pupil and their belongings if they are suspected of carrying such items. (Refer to Searching and Confiscation Policy).
 - If a member of staff suspects or finds a student smoking or vaping, they should take note of the child's name and report the incident to the Heads of Section or the Deputy Head (Pastoral) as soon as possible and confiscate the apparatus used.
 - Pupils who are caught or found to have been smoking or vaping on the school site or on any trips or outings will ordinarily be excluded for a fixed period of at least 48 hours and will need to sign a Behaviour Contract upon their return.
 - Parents will be informed if a pupil is found to have been smoking or vaping on the school site and will be encouraged to discourage such behaviours.
 - Subsequent offences may result in expulsion if the School is satisfied that the pupil's conduct has been prejudicial to good order or to the reputation of the School (See the Expulsion, Removal & Review Policy).
2. If there is a member of staff in the location, please report this to Mrs Helen Jeys (Head Mistress).
3. If there is no one at the location when you arrive, please contact the Deputy Head (Pastoral) to arrange for her to check the CCTV in an attempt to identify the person responsible for triggering the alarm.
4. Please send an email to the Pastoral Alert Email Group once one of the above has been completed, so that other members of staff do not repeat the search.

Policy written by Helen Jeys, February 2024, appendix written by Diana Bruce, August 2024.