

Vape, Illegal and Banned items Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

Path4 Independent School is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment for all students. This policy outlines our position on the use, possession, or distribution of vaping devices and associated paraphernalia on school premises, during school activities, or while representing the school off-site.

This policy applies to all students, staff, and visitors to the school.

2. Definition of Vaping and Vaping Devices

Vaping refers to the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), vape pens, or other similar devices that produce vapor for inhalation. These may contain nicotine, cannabis derivatives, or other substances, legal or illegal.

Vaping devices include but are not limited to:

- E-cigarettes
- Vape pens
- E-liquids
- Refillable cartridges
- Any paraphernalia associated with vaping

3. Prohibited Actions

Students are strictly prohibited from:

- Using vaping devices on school grounds, during school hours, or at school-sponsored events.
- Possessing vaping devices or paraphernalia, regardless of their content.
- Distributing or selling vaping-related items.
- Bringing illegal substances or products that may be vaped (e.g., THC oil, nicotine for underage users) onto school premises.

4. Staff Responsibilities

All staff members at Path4 Independent School have a shared responsibility to uphold this policy. This includes:

- Actively monitoring student behavior in and around school premises.
- Remaining vigilant for signs of vaping activity.
- Immediately reporting any suspicions, discoveries, or incidents related to vaping to a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).
- Supporting the enforcement of sanctions and maintaining a consistent and fair approach.

5. Sanctions and Procedures

If a student is found in possession of any illegal item, including illegal vaping substances or paraphernalia:

- **Confiscation:** The item will be confiscated immediately.
- **Notification:** Parents/carers and the school leadership will be informed promptly.
- **Disposal:** The item will be safely and permanently disposed of, in accordance with legal and environmental guidelines.
- **Daily Searches:** The student will be subjected to daily searches on arrival to school for a period determined by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), typically no less than 10 school days.
- **Behavioural Consequences:** The student may also face additional disciplinary measures, such as detention, suspension, or participation in a restorative education program about the risks of vaping.

For possession of legal but banned items (e.g., nicotine-based vapes for underage students):

- Similar sanctions apply, with a clear record kept on the student's file.
- Repeat offenses may lead to more serious consequences, including possible permanent exclusion.

6. Education and Prevention

Path4 Independent School is committed to proactive prevention. This includes:

- Education sessions on the health risks associated with vaping.
- Regular assemblies and PSHE curriculum coverage on substance abuse.
- Support and referral to counselling services for students found using or experimenting with vaping.

7. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to incidents or changes in legislation.

Approved by:

Moinul Islam (Head)

Date: 12/09/2024

Next Review: August 2025