



SIKH ACADEMIES TRUST
Faith Inspired Education

SAT ANTI-VAPING POLICY

Date reviewed: Autumn 2024
Date of next review: Autumn 2025

ANTI-VAPING

1. Introduction

As a Sikh Trust, smoking or vaping is strictly prohibited. Smoking and vaping are not acceptable in Sikhism and go against the Sikh ethos at SAT schools.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the availability and general awareness of vapes (also known as e-cigarettes). Nicotine vapes are now the most common stop smoking aid among adults in the UK. Smoking is the leading preventable cause of premature death in England. Supporting smokers to quit is therefore, the single biggest actionable activity to improve health and reduce inequalities. Whilst the availability of vapes offers a unique opportunity for adult smokers to quit, they also bring challenges for staff and schools working with children and young people.

There is [clear advice \(1.6.3\)](#) from NICE (National Institute For Health & Care Excellence) that vapes should not be used by children and young people, or those who do not currently smoke, as nicotine is an addictive substance and the long term risks are not yet known.

It is illegal to sell cigarettes or nicotine containing vapes to under-18s, but it is not illegal to smoke or vape underage. The [law](#) bans the sale of nicotine vaping products to persons under 18 and bans the proxy purchasing of these products to under-18s by adults.

The [increase in prevalence](#) among young people of this age-restricted product, means schools working with young people are now facing challenges with managing the presence of vapes within their settings.

2. The role of education settings:

As part of the [statutory duty to](#) promote pupils' physical, mental health and emotional wellbeing, SAT schools have a clear role to play in managing vapes as part of their pastoral responsibilities.

SAT schools [also have a statutory duty to deliver health education on drugs, alcohol, and tobacco \(Physical health and mental wellbeing \(Primary and secondary\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)\)](#).

PSA will play a role in:

- Managing behaviour related to vapes and vaping
- Incorporating vaping prevention into the whole school's approach to health and wellbeing, which includes PD education and the wider curriculum, school policies, ethos and environment, and partnerships with parents and the local community.
- Uptake of vaping has a distinctive age profile. The key ages for take up are KS4 and KS5 although it can occur earlier. Our PD curriculum

design reflects this.

PSA will tackle problem behaviour associated with vaping, which might include:

- A child vaping in school or on school property
- A child reported to be vaping in the local community
- A child selling vapes to other pupils or peers
- A child being exploited to sell vapes to pupils and peers
- A child with vapes in their possession at school

3. Managing behaviour related to vapes and vaping:

We will respond to these behaviours in different ways, depending on factors such as intensity or frequency of behaviour.

- Vaping will be addressed as early as possible by making vapes a prohibited item using the wider powers of [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#), and setting out clear expectations for pupils, parents/carers, and staff.
- The main source of supply to children of cigarettes and vapes is shops. Children under 18 should be asked where they got their vape (or cigarette) from. Complaints may be made to trading standards through the Citizens Advice online portal.
- Teachers should be aware that vapes can be used to exploit the most vulnerable children, as is the case with other age restricted products such as tobacco and alcohol.

4. Responding to Vaping Related Incidents

The management of such incidents should always be coordinated through a senior member of staff. Each incident should be assessed individually to ensure the most appropriate response and actions are taken. A member of staff should not act on suspicion, rumour, or hearsay.

In all situations involving vaping the following guidelines apply:

- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response.
- All incidents will be reported to the Senior Staff member or Head of Year and the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Parents / Carers will be informed.
- The involvement of external agencies will be considered.
- Responses may include a variety of sanctions, which could involve a disciplinary and/or a pastoral support approach.
- All incidents will be recorded and held internally.
- Data protection laws apply.

Before deciding on a response, the schools will consider each incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary. The schools will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. Permanent exclusion could be seriously considered for repeated use or involvement in vaping related incidents e.g. the selling of vapes or vaping paraphernalia to other students.

Young people are becoming increasingly aware of, and in some cases using, new vaping substances. Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. If there is uncertainty about what the substance in the vape is, it will be treated as a controlled drug.

5. Procedures for all members of staff

If there is evidence of vaping take immediate action to reduce risk of harm to the pupil:

- Isolate the pupil(s) if possible, in separate rooms.
- Ask for and confiscate the vapes or vaping paraphernalia.
- Inform the designated Head of Year and a member of the Leadership Group.
- If the pupil is behaving erratically and physical intervention is required for their own safety, the safety of other individuals or the safety of the environment, then the school's physical intervention procedures must be followed. The safety of the individual and other students is paramount.

6. Screening, Searching and Confiscation

Whilst vapes are not explicitly listed as prohibited items on Page 7 of the Searching, Screening and Confiscation DfE document, SAT has chosen to add them to the list of banned products for which searches and confiscation can apply. Vapes are also added to other relevant policy documents such as the Behaviour Policy.

7. Disposing of confiscated vapes and vaping liquids

Single use disposable vapes contain electrical components, including lithium-ion batteries, and are therefore considered Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), in UK law. Such equipment should never be disposed of in household waste and should instead be handed in to an approved collector of WEEE waste. The lithium-ion batteries contained in vapes have, in isolated incidents, ignited when damaged or improperly stored. The advice is to store them in a clearly marked container, away from flammable material (and for no longer than

necessary) until they can be disposed. Public Health England's '[Use of E-cigarettes in Public Places and Workplaces: Advice to inform evidence-based policy making](#)' outlines considerations when developing the rationale for your policy.

It may be helpful to enlist the support and advice of local voluntary organisations, health partners (such as school nursing), the police and others.

Guidance can also be found in [DFE & ACPO Drugs Advice for Schools](#).

Screening, Searching and Confiscation

Department of Education Guidance on [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#) to help develop your policies has also been recently updated, and can be cross referenced with recently published [Behaviour in Schools Guidance](#).

Whilst vapes are not explicitly listed as prohibited items on Pg.7 of the [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#) document, schools can choose to add them to the list of banned products for which searches and confiscation can apply. Schools will need to ensure that vapes are also added to other relevant policy documents for consistency, such as School Behaviour Policies.

Disposing of confiscated vapes and vaping liquids

Single use disposable vapes contain electrical components, including lithium-ion batteries, and are therefore considered Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), in UK law. Such equipment should never be disposed of in household waste and should instead be handed in to an approved collector of WEEE waste. Larger vape stores may operate collection points, or you can contact your local authority waste service for further information.

Storage

The lithium-ion batteries contained in vapes have, in isolated incidents, ignited when damaged or improperly stored. The advice is to store them in a clearly marked container, away from flammable material (and for no longer than necessary) until you can dispose of them.

Following up on vaping behaviour

Schools should have a process in place to respond when vapes are identified through searching and screening, or vaping behaviour is observed, or reported in the setting or school community. This might involve:

- Exploring any safeguarding concerns, mental or physical health concerns, or other potential risk behaviours, such as substance use.
- Exploring how any confiscated vapes were obtained and reporting any illegal sales.
- Communication with parents or carers about the pupil's behaviour, the school's policy, and rationale for the screening, searching, confiscation, disposal of the vapes and vaping products, and any suggested onward support.
- Making relevant referrals, or providing advice & signposting to the pupil and their family.
- Responding to any safety incidents.
- Awareness of and responding to any social media trends

Working with other local agencies

When schools are developing policy and process around vaping, they may find it helpful to collaborate with local agencies for support.

Trading standards teams, found within local councils (unitary or upper tier local authority), should be approached if schools have concerns about underage sales of vapes and/or tobacco in their local community. These teams are also keen to be informed of any activity relating to illicit vape or tobacco products.

If you find a retailer selling either nicotine vapes or tobacco products to under-18s, you can **report a retailer** (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/>) to Local Authority Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice portal.

If you wish to report an incident to Trading Standards or you require advice, please contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **0808 223 1133** or by email using the form at <http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/england.htm>.

Illicit products may pull crime into local areas. Therefore, if appropriate, Police may also need to be made aware. This is a consideration that schools should address as part of their safeguarding policies and procedures, and behaviour policy. According to [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#), being in possession of a prohibited item “may mean that the pupil is involved, or at risk of being involved, in anti-social or criminal behaviour including gang involvement, and in some cases may be involved in child criminal exploitation”.

Where devices are confiscated, it is encouraged that information regarding the source is disclosed by the pupil. Information regarding illegal supply should be reported to Trading Standards or Police, if the supply is as a result of an improper relationship with the pupil. A search may play a vital role

in identifying pupils who may benefit from early help or a referral to the local authority children’s social care services. Local safeguarding teams should be informed of any concerns, as per schools’ standard escalation processes. See [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

Community stop smoking services are a local resource for advice and guidance. Some may offer access to support for young people wishing to quit smoking cigarettes and all will help family members to quit smoking.

Vapes are not recommended for people under 18 years as a quitting aid ([NICE Guideline NG209](#)) but community stop smoking services can offer behavioural support and other nicotine replacement products, licensed for use by children and young people.

Community stop smoking services are currently not commissioned to support adults or children to stop vaping, but some will be able to offer information and advice available from the [National Centre for Smoking Cessation & Training](#).

If the vaping is suspected to be linked to other concerns such as mental health or substance disorder use, then pupils may also be referred/signposted to local school nursing services or local CaMHS/substance use services.

Responding to safety incidents relating to vaping

In the unlikely event of an adverse reaction associated with vaping, this should be reported to the MHRA (Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) via the [Yellow Card Scheme](#). The more information that can be provided in the online form about the product used, the better.

Some schools report concerns that vaping devices could be used and/or modified for delivering other substances, for example cannabis or ketamine, etc. The management of these situations are covered in the [Screening, Searching and Confiscation Guidance](#) and should be incorporated into school drug and/or behavioural policies. Support should be sought from relevant partners, such as drug and alcohol services, police, and safeguarding.

Incorporating vaping into a whole school approach

In the longer term, schools might respond to vaping by making it a part of their whole school approach to health and well-being. This might involve:

- considering how the physical environment promotes vaping, for example are there any areas of the school site where vaping is regularly reported
- supporting all staff to feel confident in their knowledge of vaping, its risks (and benefits for adult smokers), and the law, through resources and training
- exploring how it can be linked to the school's ethos, culture and values, for example around sustainability and the environment, or a positive sense of health and well-being
- teaching about vaping as part of the PSHE education curriculum (PHSE Association [year 9 lesson now available](#))
- sharing information, resources & signposting with parents and carers

Resources and Training for Staff

Free resources on vaping and young people:

[Chief Medical Officer for England on vaping](#)

[ASH-brief-for-local-authorities-on-youth-vaping.pdf](#) [ASH-guidance-for-school-vaping-policies.pdf](#)

[Vaping factsheet for professionals working with young people Vapes | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](https://talktofrank.com)

OHID resource for schools on vaping – new resources aimed at Years 7 and 8 available on [Better Health School Zone](#) for start of 2023/24 academic year

PSHE Association:

<https://pshe-association.org.uk/news/where-is-vaping-covered-in-our-materials>
[Vaping year 9 lesson pack \(pshe-association.org.uk\)](#)

Sheffield City Council resources:

A short, [animated film](#) to start discussions in PSHE lessons, form times and assemblies. Animation also available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rod4d4yFeaE>.

[Classroom presentation](#) for use by teachers alongside the animated film. Notes pages [here](#).

A Teachers Toolkit with more detail to back up the classroom presentation is available.

[Electronic leaflet](#) for parents and carers to share via newsletters or emails etc. Further materials are available and if you would like to order and purchase printed copies of these resources contact: smokefreesheffield@divacreative.com

[Supporting clients who want to stop vaping \(ncsct.co.uk\)](#) – this guide is aimed at specialist stop

smoking advisers, so may be helpful for school nurses.

Resources to support pupils, staff, families, and carers to quit smoking:

Schools should be aware that some parents and carers may be smokers, with many making positive steps to a quit with the help of a vape. The resources below may be helpful for staff to be supportive of this.

[Vaping to quit smoking - Better Health - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) [Using e-cigarettes to stop smoking - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Find Your Local Stop Smoking Service \(LSSS\) - Better Health - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)