



BRIDGEWATER

HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING WITH PRIDE AND JOY

SMOKING AND VAPING POLICY

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Section A Introduction

Rationale

Bridgewater High School has a duty to protect its employees and young people from known hazards. We promote the physical and emotional well-being of our community. We understand that the health risks associated with smoking are serious and detrimental for those who smoke, as well as people within close proximity. Therefore, because of the damaging effects of both active and passive smoking, smoking is prohibited anywhere on the grounds or the immediate surroundings of the school.

Vaping is an important aid for adults to quit smoking but there has been a recent and marked rise in youth vaping. Vaping is less harmful than smoking, but not risk free as the long-term effects are unknown. Vapes should only be sold to people over the age of 18. In addition, there is a substantial market in illicit, unregulated vapes with an associated risk of a more extreme reaction. It is estimated that [a quarter of the vapes](#) sold to young people are not compliant with UK product regulations. Therefore, Bridgewater High school is committed to being a smoke and vape free school.

This policy covers both nicotine and other substances which can be smoked or vaped.

Aims

We aim to:

- Create a smoke/vape free environment for all those within the school community, including staff, young people, visitors, parents, carers, etc.
- Create a smoke/vape free environment whilst attempting to be sensitive to those who find it difficult not to smoke on the premises.
- Educate pupils on the potential harm that can be caused by smoking and vaping.
- Educate pupils on the law surrounding smoking, vaping including the use of illegal vapes.
- Ensure that pupils who do start vaping are signposted and encouraged to get support to cease.

Section B Statements and procedures

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work.. Act 1974
- Health Act 2006
- Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991
- Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations 2015
- Equality Act 2010

This policy also has due regard to guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

Public Health England (2016) 'Use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces'

This policy has due regard for the Northwest Policy Framework for vaping

Policy application

- The principles outlined in this policy apply to all staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, parents and carers.
- The principles outlined in this policy also continue to apply whether or not 'no smoking/no vaping' signs are displayed.
- All areas of the school premises, including outdoor areas, are designated smoke/vape free environments and, as such, all individuals are prohibited from smoking/vaping anywhere on the premises.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

Is responsible for reviewing this policy and monitoring its impact.

The Principal/Headteacher

Are responsible for ensuring this policy is disseminated to all stakeholders and holding to account staff for implementation.

Senior Leadership Team

Are responsible for implementing this policy ensuring that pupils and parents/carer are familiar with the Policy and responding to all incidents in line with policy.

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Pastoral Teams

Are responsible for ensuring the policy is understood by stakeholders and implemented.

Teaching and Support Staff

Are responsible for reading, understanding, and following the guidelines laid down in the Policy.

Smoking and E-cigarettes on the school premises

- For the purpose of the policy, the process of using an e-cigarette is defined as vaping.
- Smoking or vaping is prohibited on school premises at all times; there are no designated areas available on the academy premises for smoking or vaping.
- Staff, contractors, visitors and pupils are not permitted to smoke or vape within the immediate surrounding area of the school premises during school hours; this is to reduce the risk of pupils, parents and other members of the community witnessing the individual smoking, which may affect professional etiquette.
- Any individual who is witnessed smoking on the premises, or within the immediate surrounding area during school hours, will be subject to disciplinary sanctions, as outlined below.
- Bridgewater High School adopts a fully smoke/vape free environment, and recognises that use of e-cigarettes, still pose some hazards, particularly for those with asthma and respiratory conditions who may be affected by the vapour. There is wide ranging consensus that the long-term risks are at present unknown.
- Smoking or vaping is not permitted at any time in vehicles being used on behalf of the school e.g. School minibuses, whether or not young people are present.
- It is illegal for any individual under the age of 18 to smoke or vape. Any young person witnessed using cigarettes or e-cigarettes on the premises or within the immediate surrounding area during school hours or in school regulated activity will face disciplinary action under the school's Behaviour Policy.
- It is illegal to sell cigarettes or nicotine containing vapes to under-18s. The main source of supply to children of cigarettes and vapes is shops. The school will remain vigilant to and will work with external agencies to prevent the sale of vapes to its pupils.
- Staff, visitors and contractors are prohibited from purchasing cigarettes or e-cigarettes for pupils at the school.

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Responding to incidents of smoking and vaping on school premises

School will repeatedly inform pupils of the dangers of vaping due to the unknown health risks.

School will continue to remind pupils and parents and carers of the dangers of vaping including advising pupils and parents/carers of any specific danger in the local community.

We will inform both pupils and parents/carers of the schools response to pupils found smoking or vaping or if these items are found in their possession.

- Young people will be classed as smoking or vaping if:
 - They are seen smoking or vaping.
 - They are seen with a lit cigarette or e-cigarette in their hand.
 - They are found to have cigarettes, an e-cigarette or other smoking materials openly in their possession.
- Young people caught smoking or vaping will receive a disciplinary sanction as a Serious Breach of school rules in accordance with the School's Behaviour Management Policy.
- Where there are grounds to suspect that a pupil has cigarette/s or vape/s in their possession the pupil will be Searched following the Search and Confiscate guidelines within the Behaviour Management Policy
- HOY/AHOY or SLT will notify the pupil's parent/carer of the incident and the disciplinary sanction to be applied.
- Any smoking paraphernalia found on a young person will be disposed of safely.
- The pupil will be encouraged to seek health advice as soon as possible. This will include the offer a referral to our school nurse.
- The pupil will be asked where they got their vape (or cigarette) from and a complaint can be made by the school to trading standards through the [Citizens Advice online portal](#).
- If pupil's are repeatedly caught smoking or vaping, their parents/carers will be invited to a meeting with the HOY/AHOY and further disciplinary sanctions may be imposed in accordance with the Behaviour Management Policy.
- If students are found to have given or sold cigarettes or vapes to other pupils, then this will be investigated as to the extent that this places other pupils at the risk of significant harm. Dependent on the outcome of such investigation consideration will be given as to the level of sanction required which may include the decision to suspend or Permanently Exclude.
- If a member of staff breaches any of the guidelines in this policy, they will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with School and TCAT Disciplinary Policy.
- Staff may also be subject to a penalty fine and possible criminal prosecution depending on the nature of the breach.
- Visitors and contractors who breach the guidelines in this policy will be asked to leave the premises. Refusal to comply with this request may result in the school

contacting the police.

Managing incidents of Illegal and Illicit vapes on the school premises

There is potential for vapes to carry illegal drugs and at times it is not easy to identify the substance within the vape as they present very much like a regular vape. Where illicit vapes or vapes containing illegal substances are found in a pupil's possession or a pupils is using an illegal vape then action will be taken under the Substance mis-use policy and the Behaviour Policy. Information about illegal vapes can be found in Section C and in Appendix A.

Educational Support and Guidance

- The School aims to implement effective and supportive procedures for those who want to quit smoking and or vaping and improve their health.
- The School regularly educates young people about the effects of smoking and vaping both through the requirements of the national curriculum, and through additional sessions, e.g. Personal Development lessons, assemblies and presentations by outside agencies.
- The school educates its young people on the purchasing, selling and consumption of smoking and vaping through the eyes of the law.
- Pupil's are encouraged to seek help from other professionals about the effects of smoking/vaping if they would like to quit smoking/vaping or would like to know more about additional methods of support. Our school nurse a is available for advice and support.
- If an employee wishes to stop smoking, they can request a referral to the school's Occupational Health provider to discuss what help is available.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral). Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff, and young people if necessary. All staff, visitors and contractors are required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction periods, or upon their attendance within the School. The impact of the policy will be monitored by the Safeguarding, Personal Development advisory group.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Substance Mis-use Policy
- Staff Disciplinary Policy

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Section C Additional Information & Guidance

Cannabis and other illegal substances

Cannabis

Vapes can be used to consume cannabis. A vapouriser is used to heat the cannabis, rather than burning it. Consumption of cannabis on school premises should be dealt with according to the school Substance Misuse Policy.

CBD

CBD oil is legal to sell in the UK, and this includes the sale of CBD vape juice. However, UK law dictates that any CBD oil sold must contain no nicotine. It must also contain no detectable THC.

THC

THC vape liquid is illegal and can produce the same effect as cannabis. It may contain synthetic cannabinoids. These products are more potent than cannabis and can produce adverse reactions and behaviour change, including excessive sweating, rapid heart rate, vomiting and fainting.

THC liquid may also include vitamin E acetate. This is used to dilute the liquid and can produce a toxic gas with associated lung injuries. It is not possible to tell by sight if this has been added to the liquid.

Other illegal substances

Some schools report concerns that vaping devices could be used and/or modified for delivering other substances. 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.

APPENDIX A

Identifying Illicit Vapes

All vapes must comply with the requirements of the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations and be labelled in accordance with the regulations for hazardous substances.

The key requirements are listed below.

- Nicotine-containing vapes must not:
 - have a nicotine strength of more than 20mg/ml or 2%
 - contain more than 2ml of nicotine-containing liquid
- The packaging (box) of a nicotine-containing vape must be labelled with:
 - Nicotine strength (e.g., 20mg/ml)
 - Volume of nicotine-containing liquid in the product (e.g., 2ml)
 - Stating the number of puffs is not sufficient on its own, but if any vape declares more than 1000 puffs, then it will contain more than 2ml of nicotine
 - Name, address and telephone number of a GB based responsible person (manufacturer or importer).
 - Health warning, which must be this exact wording:
 - **“THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS NICOTINE WHICH IS A HIGHLY ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCE”**.
 - This warning must appear on the front and back of the box and cover at least 30% of the area of each of those surfaces.
 - Ingredients list
 - Hazard symbol and associated signal word, i.e.: either of the below:



WARNING



DANGER

- Tactile warning, to alert blind and partially sighted users to the above dangers. This is in the form of a raised triangle – run your hand over the box to find it.