



Statement from the Governing Bodies and Headteachers from the Havant Federation of Schools:

Health and Well-being – Vaping, Smoking and banned substances.

This statement sets out the shared principles and expectations of the Havant Federation of Schools. Each school will implement these principles in accordance with its own published policies and procedures.

As a Federation of Schools, we are keen to ensure that students understand the risks to their health and wellbeing from smoking, vaping and the use of banned substances. Vaping is less harmful than smoking, but it is not risk-free and children and non-smokers should not vape. Nicotine is highly addictive, and young people who regularly use nicotine-containing vapes can become dependent on them. Evidence about the longer-term health effects of vaping continues to develop. We are also concerned about the potential impact of nicotine dependence on concentration, wellbeing, attendance and learning.

In the UK, single-use (disposable) vapes have been banned from sale and supply since 1 June 2025, whether or not they contain nicotine. It is illegal to sell nicotine-containing vaping products to anyone under 18 or for an adult to buy them on behalf of someone under 18. From 29 October 2026, age-of-sale restrictions extend to all vaping and nicotine products under the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026.

Key Aspects of UK Vaping Law:

- **Single-Use Vape Ban:**

As of June 1, 2025, selling or supplying disposable vapes is illegal for all retailers, both on high streets and online.

- **Age Restrictions:**

At the date of this statement, nicotine-containing vaping products are illegal to sell to anyone under 18 and adults must not purchase them on behalf of under-18s. From 29 October 2026, the age-of-sale restrictions extend to all vaping and nicotine products.

- **Environmental Protection:**

The ban on single-use vapes is a primary environmental initiative. Littered vapes introduce harmful chemicals into the environment and are costly to clean up.

- **Youth Vaping Reduction:**

The ban also aims to reduce youth vaping rates, as evidence shows the developing brain is particularly sensitive to the addictive effects of nicotine.

There has been a worrying increase in vaping among young people. Vapes can be an effective quit aid for adult smokers, but children and non-smokers should not vape. Vaping has nevertheless become increasingly visible and accessible to some students in our schools.

We are taking the rise in vaping seriously, particularly as it can have a negative effect on a young person's health and well-being both for now and their future. We are also concerned that young people might be partaking in illegal substances in vapes.

The risks to our young people

Smoking gives you nicotine by burning tobacco, which creates many harmful toxins and can cause serious illnesses including cancer, lung disease, heart disease and stroke. Vaping heats an e-liquid rather than burning tobacco and generally exposes users to fewer toxins and at lower levels than smoking. For an adult

smoker, completely switching from smoking to vaping can reduce exposure to many harmful substances. However, vaping is not risk-free, children and non-smokers should not vape, and evidence about the longer-term effects continues to develop.

Nicotine is an addictive substance which can be hard to stop using once you've started. Also, nicotine may be riskier for young people than for adults – there's some evidence that in adolescence the brain is more sensitive to its effects. Nicotine is a toxin and poisoning can happen if larger doses are taken. Nicotine is an addictive substance, and you can become dependent on vapes, especially if you vape nicotine regularly. Giving up nicotine can be difficult because the body must get used to functioning without it. Withdrawal symptoms can include cravings, irritability, anxiety, trouble concentrating, headaches and other mental and physical symptoms.

The way forward – it is important for parents, carers, and the school to work together on reducing vaping

- As parents, please establish whether your child is vaping and or has access to vaping. Speak to your children about it and reinforce the negative effects of vaping with them. If necessary, seek further information, advice, and help.
- In school we will educate the students about vaping and its effects on health and well-being and reinforce this regularly.
- Vaping, smoking, or bringing vapes, cigarettes or other substances/items prohibited by the individual school's Behaviour Policy onto the school site is not permitted. Students will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour, Safeguarding and other relevant policies.

Vaping, possession of a vape, or possession/use of other prohibited substances

We will follow the individual school's Behaviour and Safeguarding policies where a student is found in possession of a vape or another prohibited substance, or where there is clear and reliable evidence that they have been vaping or using a prohibited substance. The school's response will take account of the circumstances, including any safeguarding or exploitation concerns.

Children under 18 should be asked where they obtained the vape, cigarette or prohibited substance. Where appropriate, concerns about the unlawful sale or supply of age-restricted products can be reported to Trading Standards through the Citizens Advice online portal.

Teachers and parents/carers should be aware that vapes and other prohibited substances or age-restricted products can sometimes be associated with the exploitation of vulnerable children. Any such concerns will be considered through the school's safeguarding procedures.

Parents and students can access further reliable information from the [Frank Website](#).

References

ASH guidance on developing school policies on vaping <https://ash.org.uk/uploads/ASH-guidance-for-school-vaping-policies.pdf>

FRANK <https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/vapes#the-law>