

Anti-Smoking/Vaping Policy for Pupils

Dover College



Owner:	Deputy Head SS	Date: September 2022
Approved By:	SLT	Date: September 2022
Review Frequency	3 yearly	
Last reviewed on:	September 2023	
Next review due by:	September 2025	

Dover College is a smoking-free site, and no pupil may smoke or be in possession of 'smoking materials'. We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment for pupils, staff and visitors. Smoking in the terms of this policy includes smoking tobacco by any means and vaping or use of e-cigarettes, regardless of the nicotine content of the vaping liquid. However, the severity of sanctions will defer in the case of the smoking of cigarettes due to the increased fire hazard.

1. EDUCATION ABOUT SMOKING

As in other areas related to pupil health, we have extensive PSHE programmes at Dover College that focus upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from cigarettes and the inhalation of chemicals found in vapes as well as from the addiction to nicotine. We concentrate on teaching the importance of young people making healthy and informed choices. Although vaping or the use of e-cigarette has unknown long-term impacts, it has begun to be linked to lung illness. It is therefore prudent for schools to highlight the risks associated with vaping as well as smoking cigarettes and other products containing nicotine and specific assemblies dedicated to vaping.

Our Medical staff play an active role in promoting greater awareness about the risks involved, and will offer informed medical advice. Pupils can also discuss their individual worries about smoking with their House Master/Mistress or other pastoral staff. They can also refer themselves to the Medical Staff and to the School Counsellor for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report.

2. SUPPORT

If a pupil comes forward and voluntarily identifies himself/herself as a smoker and asks for help, (or if his/her parents or friends ask for help on his/her behalf) we will arrange for them to receive support in smoking cessation from the School Medical Department. Medical support to break smoking habits will be offered to all pupils who are caught smoking.

3. SANCTIONS

Smoking and vaping are forbidden, as is the possession of smoking equipment and paraphernalia.

- Pupils smelling of tobacco or caught in the company of peers smoking may be sanctioned in the same way as smokers;
- Smoking inside houses or other school buildings is seen as a particularly serious offence, since it constitutes a fire hazard;

- Pupils who are found in possession of a large number of cigarettes/vaping devices or a large amount of other smoking materials are liable to receive a more serious punishment, especially if they are passing them or selling them on to other pupils.

The following sanctions are usually given:

Smoking cigarettes

Outside school buildings:

- First Offence: 2 days gating; SLT detention; Contact with parents (phone call or email from the HSM)
- Further offences: 3 days gating; Internal Suspension; Contact with parents (phone call or email from the HSM and a letter home from the Deputy Head) as well as a session with the Medical Centre staff about the dangers of smoking and help with strategies for giving up.

Repeated offences may lead to External Suspension and eventually Permanent Exclusion

Inside school buildings:

- First offence: 3 days gating; Internal suspension; Contact with parents (phone call by HSM and letter from the Deputy Head) as well as a session with the Medical Centre staff about the dangers of smoking and help with strategies for giving up.
- Second offence: 3 days gating; External suspension; Contact with parents (phone call by HSM and letter from the Deputy Head), as well as a session with the Medical Centre staff about the dangers of smoking and help with strategies for giving up.
- Further offences are likely to lead to exclusion

Vaping and e-cigarettes (inside or outside buildings)

- First Offence: 2 days gating; SLT detention; Contact with parents (phone call or email from the HSM)
- Further offences: 3 days gating; Internal Suspension; Contact with parents (phone call or email from the HSM and a letter home from the Deputy Head) as well as a session with the Medical Centre staff about the dangers of vaping and help with strategies for giving up.

Repeated offences may lead to External Suspension and eventually Permanent Exclusion

Pupils caught vaping will undertake a project on vaping during their SLT detention or Internal Suspension.