

# Vaping Policy

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# Purpose

This policy aims to safeguard the health and well-being of all young people while recognising the realities of working with young people who may already engage in vaping. We seek to create a supportive environment that promotes healthier choices without alienating young people

# Scope

This policy applies to all young people, staff, volunteers, and visitors during Youth Challenge Oxfordshire activities, whether on-site or off-site.

# Definitions

- **E-cigarettes/Vaping Devices:** Battery-powered devices delivering nicotine and other chemicals through vapour.
- **Designated Vaping Areas:** Clearly defined outdoor areas where vaping is permitted, strictly regulated to minimise disruption to the programme/activities.

# Policy Statement

While Youth Challenge Oxfordshire does not endorse vaping, we recognise the need to manage its presence thoughtfully to maintain engagement with our young people.

# Rationale

- **Health Considerations:** Vaping is not risk-free, and concerns about nicotine addiction and developing brains are well-

documented. We aim to educate young people about these risks without creating barriers to participation.

- **Practical Considerations:** For some young people, banning vaping entirely may prevent their engagement with the programme. A balanced approach allows us to maintain relationships and provide support.

# Implementation

## Education

We will provide factual, age-appropriate information about vaping, its risks, and healthier alternatives through discussions, workshops, and external resources.

## Designated Vaping Areas

- Vaping will only be permitted in designated outdoor areas, away from programme activities.
- These areas will be monitored to ensure compliance with safety and respect for others.

## Rules for Young People

- Young people who vape must use designated areas and avoid vaping during indoor activities or in front of others, including staff and volunteers.
- Sharing vaping devices is prohibited to minimise peer influence and health risks.

## Support for Quitting

We will offer support to young people who wish to quit vaping, including:

- Access to educational resources.
- Referrals to local cessation services (e.g., NHS Stop Smoking Services).
- One-on-one support from programme staff where appropriate.

## Enforcement (Staged Approach)

In the event of non-compliance with the vaping policy, staff will follow a clear, staged approach to address the behaviour:

### 1. Verbal Reminder

- The young person is reminded of the vaping policy in a calm and respectful manner.
- Staff will explain why the policy exists and direct the young person to the designated vaping area.

### 2. Supportive Conversation

- If non-compliance persists, staff will have a one-on-one conversation with the young person to understand their reasons for vaping outside the policy.
- Staff will explore any barriers to following the policy and provide additional support or information as needed.

### 3. Formal Warning

- If the young person continues to ignore the policy, a formal warning will be issued.
- The young person will be informed that further non-compliance may result in restricted participation in certain activities.

### 4. Temporary Restriction of Privileges

- For ongoing non-compliance, the young person may lose access to specific privileges, such as participation in outings or events, until they demonstrate adherence to the policy.
- Staff will clearly communicate the reason for the restriction and the steps required for reinstatement.

### 5. Meeting with Parent/Carer (if applicable)

- If the young person continues to breach the policy, a meeting with

their parent or carer will be arranged to discuss the behaviour and agree on next steps.

### 6. Final Action

- As a last resort, repeated or severe breaches of the policy may result in temporary or permanent exclusion from the programme.
- This step will only be taken after all other options have been exhausted and in consultation with the Programme Leader.

## Staff and Volunteer Guidance

- Staff and volunteers are expected to model appropriate behaviour by refraining from vaping during programme activities or in the presence of young people.
- Training will be provided to equip staff with skills to discuss vaping constructively and enforce the policy sensitively.

## Exceptions

- Exceptions may be made for young people using vaping as part of a smoking cessation plan. In such cases, staff will provide additional support and liaise with relevant services if needed.

## Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or as new guidance becomes available.

# Appendix

## Resources

**Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) Guidance for Schools:** ASH provides a framework for schools to develop evidence-based policies on vaping, emphasising the importance of education and support over punitive measures.

[ASH](#)

**Slough Borough Council's Advice on Managing Vapes in Schools:** This document offers practical advice on handling vaping among students, including the implementation of designated areas and educational initiatives.

[The Link](#)

**UK Government's Tobacco and Vapes Bill Factsheet:** This factsheet outlines proposed measures to tackle youth vaping, highlighting the importance of creating a smoke-free environment while considering the challenges of enforcement.

[GOV.UK](#)

**Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) Policy Briefing on Vaping in Young People:** This briefing discusses the health implications of vaping among youth and suggests policy approaches that balance regulation with education.

[RCPCH](#)

**Somerset Children & Young People's Health & Wellbeing: Vaping Resources:** This resource compiles various materials and guidance on addressing vaping among young people, including educational tools and policy recommendations.

[Cyps Somerset Health](#)

## Education

### NHS – Better Health: Young People and Vaping

- Provides factual information on the health implications of vaping, emphasising that it's intended as a smoking cessation tool for adults, not for non-smokers or young people.
- Offers guidance for parents, carers, and educators on discussing vaping with young individuals.

[Visit the resource](#)

### Every Mind Matters – Vaping: KS3 Form Time Activities

- Features three curriculum-linked sessions for Key Stage 3 students, covering:
  - Understanding vaping and reasons behind its use.
  - The impact of vaping on health and well-being.
  - The effects of nicotine on the adolescent brain.
- Includes films co-created with young people and guidance for educators.

[Access the materials](#)

### **PSHE Association – Drug and Alcohol Education**

- Updated lessons focusing on drug education, including vaping, tailored for young people.
- Developed in collaboration with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

[Explore the resources](#)

### **FRANK – Vaping Information**

- Provides straightforward information about vaping, its risks, and legal aspects.
- Designed to help young people make informed choices.

[Vapes | FRANK](#)

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