



SIKH ACADEMIES TRUST  
Faith Inspired Education

# **SAT Anti-Vaping Policy**

## 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. Purpose of this policy:

- Ensure a **safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment.**
- Reduce the **risks associated with vaping**, including nicotine addiction and exposure to harmful chemicals.
- Provide **clear guidance on expectations, procedures, and consequences** for students who vape.
- Support students who wish to **quit vaping** through education and available services.
- This policy applies to all:
  - o Students on school premises, during school hours, or on school trips and activities.
  - o Staff, visitors, and contractors (staff guidance covered separately in Health & Safety policies).
  - o Electronic cigarettes (vapes), e-liquids, and any paraphernalia related to vaping.<sup>1</sup>

Vaping is **not permitted** on school premises, during school hours, or at school-related activities. This includes:

- Vaping devices, pods, or cartridges.
- Possession of vaping equipment, including chargers or e-liquids.
- Use of vaping devices in school transport, nearby school grounds, or during off-site activities representing the school.

## 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.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### **Students:**

- Must not bring, use, or distribute vaping devices or e-liquids on school premises.
- Are encouraged to seek help

### **Staff:**

- Enforce the policy consistently and fairly.
- Educate students on the risks of vaping.
- Refer students to the Pastoral or Safeguarding Team.

### **Parents/Carers:**

- Support the school policy and reinforce healthy behaviours at home.
- Engage in interventions or support programs if their child is found vaping.

### **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**

SAT has chosen to add vaping equipment 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.

- Staff may search students if vaping equipment or e-liquids are suspected, in line with the DfE Searching, Screening, and Confiscation Guidance.
- Confiscated items will be secured and disposed of safely following school procedures.

#### **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.