

ANTI VAPING POLICY



المدرسة الأمريكية
للإبداع العلمي
AMERICAN SCHOOL
OF CREATIVE SCIENCE

Anti Vaping & Drug Policy

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Rationale

At ASCS NAS, we are committed to providing a safe, healthy, and productive learning environment. Vaping and e-cigarette use among adolescents poses serious health risks, including nicotine addiction, respiratory issues, and negative impacts on brain development. These behaviours contradict our mission to promote wellness, academic success, and faith-rooted values.

The school enforces a zero-tolerance policy for drugs, smoking, and related substances, in accordance with UAE law and KHDA regulations. This policy applies to all students, staff, parents, and visitors on school premises and during school-sponsored activities.

Aligned with UAE Education Policies and KHDA regulations Zero-Tolerance Campaign, this policy sets clear expectations for a vape-free school community.

Purpose

ASCS recognizes its duty to promote children and young people's wellbeing and is also required to promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As part of this the school has a responsibility to help young people manage risk, reducing the likelihood they may be harmed by use of legal and illegal drugs. This policy reflects our dedication to creating an environment conducive to learning and personal development, free from the harmful effect of nicotine, tobacco and illegal drug use, including alcohol.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Safeguard student health and wellbeing.
- Prevent the use, possession, or promotion of vaping, smoking, tobacco products, or illegal substances on school grounds.
- Educate students about the dangers of e-cigarettes and nicotine addiction.
- Establish consistent procedures for prevention, enforcement, and support.

Definitions

- **Vaping:** Inhaling or exhaling vapor from an electronic cigarette, vape pen, or similar device.
- **Smoking:** Inhaling or exhaling smoke from tobacco, dokha, or similar products.
- **Tobacco Products:** Includes cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, dokha, and only other product containing tobacco.
- **Electronic Smoking Devices (ESDs):** Devices used to deliver nicotine or other chemicals, including e-cigarettes, vapes, and hookah pens.
- **Prohibited Products:** Cigarettes, cigars, dokha, shisha, chewing tobacco, vaping liquids, or related paraphernalia.

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- **Alcohol:** Any beverage or product containing ethanol, in the school context, this also covers food items, medicines, or other products that contain alcohol.

Prohibition

- The use, possession, sale, or sharing of vaping devices, e-cigarettes, tobacco, or related paraphernalia is strictly prohibited:
 - On all school property, including classrooms, playgrounds, buses, and facilities.
 - During all school-sponsored activities, on and off campus.

Prescription Medication

The clinic are responsible for distributing any prescribed medication to a student and the medicine must be kept in the clinic at all times. Students are not allowed to keep medication in their bags.

Education and Prevention

Early prevention curriculum is not only integrated into Science and PE curriculum, but also directly addressed through grade level specific workshops that take place in Semester 1 scoped and sequenced from K – Grade 12.

The aims of the school's early prevention curriculum is:

- To ensure a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment by preventing the use, possession, or distribution of drugs, psychotropic substances, alcohol, NOS canisters, stimulants, and tobacco products - including electronic cigarettes (vapes) - on school property and during school-related within the school community and during school-related activities.
- To increase knowledge and understanding, clarifying misconceptions about the short and long-term effects of drugs, laws relating to drugs, the impact of drugs on families, communities, and personal behavior, the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers, and the moral, social, and emotional issues surrounding drugs
- Develop young people's personal and social skills to make informed decisions to stay safe and healthy including finding information and advice and devising coping strategies
- Encourage students' in need of support to come forward and to educate others into acting and speaking in the best interests of those who might need help.

The early prevention curriculum is supported through:

- Anti-vaping awareness that is integrated into the Wellbeing curriculum.
- Special assemblies, campaigns, and workshops that raise awareness of adolescent health concerns and e-cigarette dangers.
- Counselling, resources, and referrals made available for students seeking to quit.

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- PE and Fitness programs that emphasize the impact of vaping on athletic performance and overall health.

By the end of:

- KG – Grade 2: Students understand medicines and household substances can help but may also be harmful if misused.
- Grade 3 - 5: Students understand the risks of smoking, vaping, alcohol, and commonly available substances. They can differentiate between legal and illegal substances.
- Grades 6 - 12: Students develop deeper understanding of the legal, health, and social consequences of drug use, with focus on decision-making, resilience, and preparation for adulthood. Understand physical, mental, social, and legal consequences of drugs; UAE laws and career/life impacts.

Internal Anonymous Reporting

In line with KHDA guidance, we have an established confidential reporting mechanism that enables students and staff to raise concerns safely.

Our anonymous reporting QR code will be posted in all hallways as well as shared through letters and newsletters with parents ensuring all are aware of this resource to report or to request for help.

Awareness & Signage

In line with the non-smoking signs posted on the outside of the school premises, internal signage is posted in bathrooms as well as stairwells.

Searching and Confiscation

The Principal/SLT members/Supervisors and any other delegated staff members have the statutory power to search students or their possessions (including electronic devices where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting the student may have a prohibited item on their person, in their locker, in their bag or an area on the school site. Searches will be carried out by two members of staff of the same gender as the suspected offender. Please note that: Random checks of student belongings will be carried out on a regular basis without requesting parental permission and or prior notice.

Prohibited items will be confiscated and safely disposed of.

Discovery of illegal substances will be reported to the relevant authorities. Items found will be sealed and labelled and reported to Dubai Police.

Enforcement and Disciplinary Measures for Vaping or Smoking

First Offense

- Confiscation of device.
- Parent notification and meeting.
- Demerits issued.
- Two-day external suspension.
- First Written warning.
- Behaviour contract signed by student, parent, and Head of Section.

Second Offense

- Confiscation of device.
- De-merits issued.
- Three-day external suspension.
- Internal counselling with student, parent, and social worker.
- Second Written warning.

Third Offense

- Confiscation of device.
- Demerit points issued.
- Three-day external suspension.
- Referral for mandatory external counselling with student enrolled for addiction treatment.
- Final written warning letter.

Subsequent Offenses

- Student will be placed on the block list and prevented from re-registration for the following academic year.

Incident Logs & Date Collection

ASCS maintains a record of all vaping-related incidents, including possession, use, or suspicion and report them to KHDA promptly.

Incident data is reviewed every half semester to support the identification of trends in order to inform targeted prevention and guide policy refinement. In line with KHDA guidance, incidents are reported to KHDA via the designated KHDA safeguarding reporting channel (once available), and internal audits are conducted to ensure readiness for KHDA compliance checks.

Support and Resources

- Access to school counsellors, doctors, and external cessation programs.
- Parent workshops on adolescent health and early prevention education.
- Training for staff on Early identification of substance use and referral protocols, delivered at least once per academic year with staff confidence assessed through a post-training survey. Referral pathways to counselling and wellbeing support are documented, and the number of referrals and their outcomes are tracked.

Communication

- This policy will be communicated through:
 - The **student and staff handbooks**.
 - The **school website**.
 - Parent portal and orientation sessions.
 - Peer-led assembly information sessions.
 - Visible signage across campus.

Responsibility

- All staff, students, and parents share responsibility in upholding this policy.
- The School Leadership Team will oversee its consistent implementation.

Key Takeaway

ASCS NAS adopts a zero-tolerance approach to vaping and substance abuse, in alignment with UAE and KHDA directives. Through random bag checks, curriculum integration, disciplinary measures, and student support, the school reaffirms its commitment to student health, wellbeing, and academic excellence.