



## Strood Academy Vaping & E-Cigarettes Policy

### Introduction:

Strood Academy is committed to a healthy and safe environment for students and staff. This policy prohibits vaping and e-cigarette use and possession on school grounds and in the local community while students are in uniform. This promotes compliance with legal regulations and student well-being.

### Prohibition:

- Vaping and e-cigarettes are strictly **forbidden** on academy premises, including buildings, grounds, and surrounding areas.
- Vaping includes inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated tobacco/nicotine product (natural or synthetic) in any form.

### Dangers of THC Vapes:

The recent rise in THC vape use among young people is alarming. THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, can have negative impacts on developing brains. This concern is underscored by reports from the Medway safeguarding team, detailing local students who required hospitalisation after using THC vapes. These incidents highlight the serious health risks associated with THC vapes.

### Consequences:

- Possession of a vape or vaping equipment on school grounds will result in a **5-day Lodge provision**.
- Repeat offences will face progressively harsher consequences.

### For THC Vapes:

- Possession or use of a THC vape will involve immediate **police notification** and a **suspension**.

### Prevention:

- We reserve the right to search and screen students suspected of carrying vapes or vaping equipment in line with Department of Education policy. [Search, screening and confiscation guidance](#)
- Where students are found in toilet cubicles with their peers this will result in a **3 day Lodge provision**.
- **Vaping Prevention Program:** To educate students on the risks of vaping, nicotine addiction, and the school's vaping policy, students caught vaping will attend a program led by Open Road. Additionally, all

students will receive ongoing education about the dangers of vaping through PSHE lessons, tutor time sessions and assemblies.

- **Student Support:** The academy offers support for students struggling with nicotine addiction or substance abuse, including counselling services, school nurse and referrals to external organisations e.g Open Road.

**Support :**

<https://pshe-association.org.uk/resource/vaping>

<https://healthyschoolscp.org.uk/pshe/smoking-and-vaping-local-offer/>

<https://lets-get.com/0-12-months/parent-support/talking-about-vaping/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-68760301>