HAVANT FEDERATION
OF SCHOOLS
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER EDUCATION

Statement from the Governing Bodies and Headteachers from the Havant Federation of Schools:

Health and Well-being – Vaping, Smoking and banned substances.

As a Federation of Schools, we are keen to ensure that students are fully aware of the threat to their health from vaping and using banned substances. Students who vape are having a high daily nicotine intake and those who have never smoked are becoming addicted to vaping. This carries many physical risks and the risk of addiction. We have the concern that the effects of vaping can and will affect the progress of students academically, which can have an impact on their longer term educational and employment opportunities. Vaping is less harmful than smoking but is not free risk; children and non-smokers should not vape; nicotine is addictive and evidence regarding longer-term effects continues to develop.

In the UK, single use (disposable) vapes have been banned since June 1, 2025, to reduce waste and protect the environment, making it illegal for businesses to sell or supply them. It's also illegal to sell any nicotine-containing vaping product to anyone under 18 or for an adult to buy them on their behalf.

Key Aspects of UK Vaping Law:

- **Single-Use Vape Ban:**

  As of June 1, 2025, selling or supplying disposable vapes is illegal for all retailers, both on high streets and online.

- **Age Restrictions:**

  Nicotine-containing vapes are illegal to sell to individuals under 18, and it is also illegal for adults to purchase them for underage use.

- **Environmental Protection:**

  The ban on single use vapes is a primary environmental initiative. Littered vapes introduce harmful chemicals into the environment and are costly to clean up.

- **Youth Vaping Reduction:**
  The ban also aims to reduce youth vaping rates, as evidence shows the developing brain is particularly sensitive to the addictive effects of nicotine.

There has been a worrying increase in the use of vaping in society, for adults and young people. Originally, intended to support people to give up smoking, vaping is more commonplace among the students in our schools.

We are taking the rise in vaping seriously, particularly as it can have a negative effect on a young person's health and well-being both for now and their future. We are also concerned that young people might be partaking in illegal substances in vapes.

The risks to our young people

Smoking gives you nicotine by burning tobacco, which creates many harmful toxins that can cause serious illnesses including cancer, lung disease, heart disease and a stroke. Vaping gives you nicotine by heating e-liquid, which creates fewer toxins and at lower levels. In general, smokers

who switch to vaping reduce their exposure to a wide range of toxic substances. This includes tar and carbon monoxide, very harmful compounds which are produced by cigarettes but not by vapes. But vaping still exposes users to some toxins and we don't yet know what the risks might be in the longer term.

Nicotine is an addictive substance which can be hard to stop using once you've started. Also, nicotine may be riskier for young people than for adults – there's some evidence that in adolescence the brain is more sensitive to its effects. Nicotine is a toxin and poisoning can happen if larger doses are taken. Nicotine is an addictive substance, and you can become dependent on vapes, especially if you vape nicotine regularly. Giving up nicotine can be difficult because the body must get used to functioning without it. Withdrawal symptoms can include cravings, irritability, anxiety, trouble concentrating, headaches and other mental and physical symptoms.

The way forward – it is important for parents, carers, and the school to work together on reducing vaping

- As parents, please establish whether your child is vaping and or has access to vaping. Speak to your children about it and reinforce the negative effects of vaping with them. If necessary, seek further information, advice, and help.
- In school we will educate the students about vaping and its effects on health and well-being and reinforce this regularly.
- Vaping, smoking, or bringing vapes and cigarettes into school is not permitted as per the health and safety policy. Students will be sanctioned in each school according to the Behaviour Policy.

Vaping or in possession of a vape or other banned substances

We will follow the individual schools' behaviour policy if a student is caught in possession of banned substances or a vape or there is clear evidence they have been vaping (e.g. caught by member of staff coming out of cubicle with fumes).

Children under 18 should be asked where they got the vape (or cigarette) or banned substance from. Complaints can be made to trading standards through the Citizens Advice online portal.

Teachers and parents should be aware that vapes and other banned substances could be used to exploit the most vulnerable children, as is the case with other age restricted products such as tobacco and alcohol.

Parents and students can access further reliable information from the Frank Website.

References

ASH guidance on developing school policies on vaping https://ash.org.uk/uploads/ASH-guidance-for-school-vaping-policies.pdf

FRANK https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/vapes#the-law