



Anti-Vaping, Smoking & Use of Tobacco Policy

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Rationale

At Emirates International School Meadows (EISM), we are committed to providing a safe, healthy, and productive environment for our students, staff, and visitors. The use and or sale/ sharing of vaping devices, smoking, and tobacco products, including dokha, poses significant health risks and contradicts our mission to promote wellness and academic success. This policy reflects our dedication to fostering an environment conducive to learning and personal development, free from the harmful effects of nicotine, tobacco and illegal drug use.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all students, staff, and visitors by prohibiting vaping, smoking, and the use of tobacco products (this also includes the sale and or sharing of these items) on school property and during school-related activities.

Definitions

Smoking: The act of inhaling and exhaling the smoke of tobacco or any other substance, including dokha.

Vaping: The act of inhaling and exhaling vapor produced by an electronic cigarette or similar device.

Tobacco Products: Includes cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, dokha, and any other product containing tobacco.

Electronic Smoking Devices (ESDs): Devices that can be used to deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, vape pens, and hookah pens.

Prohibition

- Smoking, vaping, and the use of tobacco products (including the sale and or sharing of these items) is strictly prohibited on all school property, including buildings, grounds, and vehicles owned, leased, or operated by EISM.
- This prohibition extends to all school-related activities, whether on or off-campus.
- Students are prohibited from selling and or possessing any tobacco products, electronic smoking devices, or related paraphernalia on school property and during school-related activities.

Education and Prevention

- The school will incorporate educational programs on the risks of smoking, vaping, and tobacco use, including the specific dangers of dokha, into the Wellbeing curriculum.
- Resources and support for quitting smoking or vaping will be made available to students and staff, including counseling services and referral programs.

Confiscation and Disposal

Any smoking device as outlined above or similar will be confiscated by school staff, securely stored and may be disposed of in accordance with school policy. Illegal substances found in conjunction with any devices outlined above will be reported to law enforcement.

Searching Students Protocol

The Principal/ Head of School/ Head Pastoral/ Year Leader and any other delegated staff members have the statutory power to search students or their possessions (including electronic devices), without consent where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting the student may have a prohibited item on their person, in their locker, bag or an area on campus that has/ is used as a personal space.

Searches will be carried out by two members of staff of the same gender as the suspected offender.

Prohibited items include:

- Tobacco, vape, smoking/ tobacco related paraphernalia
- Illegal drugs
- Alcohol
- Stolen items
- Knives or weapons
- Fireworks

- Pornographic material
- Any article the member of staff reasonably suspects has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence or cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of any person.

Please note that:

Random checks of student belongings will be carried out on a regular basis without requesting parental permission and or prior notice.

Enforcement and Consequences for Students

First Offense:

- Confiscation of prohibited items.
- Parent/ guardian notification and meeting.
- Two (2) day external exclusion.
- Warning letter to parents.

Second Offense:

- Confiscation of prohibited items.
- Parent/ guardian notification and meeting.
- Three (3) day external exclusion.
- Mandatory counseling sessions with the school counselor.
- Behaviour contract to be signed by the student, parent/guardian, and Head of Pastoral which will include regular searches.
- Second warning letter to parents.

Third Offense:

- Confiscation of prohibited items.
- Parent/ guardian notification and meeting.
- Three (3) day external exclusion.
- Mandatory counseling sessions with the school counselor.
- Behaviour contract to be signed by the student, parent/guardian, and Head of School which will include regular searches.
- Third and final warning letter to parents.

Subsequent Offenses:

- If a fourth (4) offense is made within the school academic year, EISM will make an application for non-re-registration for the next academic year.
- Confiscation of prohibited items.
- Parent/guardian notification and meeting.
- Three (3) day external exclusion.
- Mandatory counseling sessions with the school counselor.
- Behaviour contract to be signed by the student, parent/ guardian, and the Principal which will include regular searches.
- Fourth (4) warning letter parents informing them of KHDA notification.

Support and Resources

- EISM will provide access to information on smoking and vaping cessation programs.
- The school doctor and or Head of Pastoral will be available to offer support and referrals to students seeking assistance with quitting smoking or vaping.

Communication

- This policy will be communicated to students, staff, and visitors through the student handbook, staff handbook, school website, and visible signage around the school property.
- Parents and guardians will be informed of this policy at the beginning of each school year and through periodic reminders.

Responsibility

All members of the Emirates International School Meadows community are responsible for adhering to and enforcing this policy. The school leadership team is responsible for the implementation and oversight of this policy.

By adhering to this policy, Emirates International School Meadows aims to cultivate a healthy, supportive, and academically focused environment for all students.

Links to other policies

Health & Safety

Safeguarding & Child Protection