



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 students, staff and visitors. The use, sale or sharing of vaping devices, tobacco products, including dokha, and other smoking products poses significant health risks and conflicts with our commitment to wellbeing and academic success. This policy supports a learning environment free from the harmful effects of nicotine, tobacco and illegal drug use.

Purpose

This policy aims to maintain a safe and healthy environment for students, staff and visitors by prohibiting vaping, smoking, and the use, possession, sale or sharing of tobacco and related products on school premises and during school-related activities.

Definitions

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

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

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

Electronic Smoking Devices (ESDs): Devices used to deliver nicotine or other substances through inhalation, including electronic cigarettes, vaporisers, vape pens and hookah pens.

Prohibition

- Smoking, vaping, and the use, possession, sale or sharing of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices are strictly prohibited on all school premises, 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 possessing, using, selling or sharing tobacco products, electronic smoking devices or related paraphernalia on school premises or during school-related activities.

Education and Prevention

- The school will incorporate education on the risks of smoking, vaping and tobacco use, including the specific dangers of dokha, within the Wellbeing curriculum.
- Support for students and staff wishing to stop smoking or vaping will be available, including counselling and referrals where appropriate.

Confiscation and Disposal

Any smoking or vaping device, or similar item, will be confiscated by school staff, securely stored and may be disposed of in accordance with school procedures. Any illegal substances found in conjunction with such devices will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Searching Students Protocol

The Principal, Head of School, Head of Pastoral, Year Leader or other delegated staff member may search a student or their possessions (including electronic devices), without consent, where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the student possesses a prohibited item on their person, in their locker or bag, or in an area of the campus used as their personal space.

Searches will be conducted by two members of staff of the same gender as the student being searched.

Prohibited items include:

- Tobacco, vaping or smoking-related products and paraphernalia
- Illegal drugs
- Alcohol
- Stolen items
- Knives or weapons
- Fireworks
- Pornographic material
- Any article that a member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage property.

Random checks of student belongings may be carried out without prior notice or parental permission.

Enforcement and Consequences for Students

First Offence:

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

Second Offence:

- Confiscation of prohibited items.
- Parent/guardian notification and meeting.
- Three-day external exclusion.
- Mandatory counselling sessions with the school counsellor.
- A behaviour contract, including regular searches, signed by the student, parent/guardian and Head of Pastoral.
- Second warning letter to parents.

Third Offence:

- Confiscation of prohibited items.
- Parent/guardian notification and meeting.
- Three-day external exclusion.
- Mandatory counselling sessions with the school counsellor.
- A behaviour contract, including regular searches, signed by the student, parent/guardian and Head of School.
- Third and final warning letter to parents.

Subsequent Offences:

- If a fourth offence occurs within the same academic year, EISM will apply for non-re-registration for the following academic year.
- Confiscation of prohibited items.
- Parent/guardian notification and meeting.
- Three-day external exclusion.
- Mandatory counselling sessions with the school counsellor.
- A behaviour contract, including regular searches, signed by the student, parent/guardian and Principal.
- A fourth warning letter to parents/guardians confirming KHDA notification.

Support and Resources

- EISM will provide access to information and support relating to smoking and vaping cessation.
- The school doctor and/or Head of Pastoral will provide support and referrals for students seeking assistance to stop smoking or vaping.

Communication

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

Responsibility

All members of the EISM community are responsible for adhering to this policy. The school leadership team is responsible for its implementation and oversight.

Links to other policies

Health & Safety

Safeguarding & Child Protection