



Anti-Vaping Policy

Policy type:	School Policy (not statutory)
Policy implementation/approval	Governors' Curriculum & Pupils' Issues Committee
Policy review by:	Senior Deputy Headteacher – Mrs A Williams
Sponsor Governor:	Mrs K Warburton
Date adopted	25.02.2025
Review frequency:	Annually
Last reviewed	Summer 2026
Date of Next Scheduled Review:	Summer 2027

Introduction

The success of Cardinal Langley RC High School is built upon the philosophy of St Jean Baptiste de la Salle, where emphasis is placed on community, relationships and the value of each individual. All that we do is rooted in Gospel values and is designed to enable each individual to grow in maturity, faith and love. To achieve such aspirations, our expectations of all students are very high. Attitudes and values based on self-respect and respect for others are reinforced through clear guidance in relation to appearance, academic achievement, behaviour and participation in extra-curricular activities.

One of our core aims is to protect and develop our children's physical and mental health, wellbeing and emotional resilience and, as such, we have a strong ethos of promoting good health and minimising harmful or risky behaviours.

Due to the continued prevalence of disposable and reusable vaping devices, alongside an increase in illegal and counterfeit products being sold to children and young people, there has been a significant increase in youth vaping nationally. This has led to growing concerns regarding health risks, addiction, environmental impact and wider safeguarding concerns.

Whilst we recognise that vaping products can be used by adults as a smoking cessation aid, they are not intended for children or young people. In line with advice from the Chief Medical Officer for England and Department for Education guidance, Cardinal Langley RC High School recognises that vaping presents risks to children's health, wellbeing and safety.

This policy outlines our whole-school approach to preventing and addressing vaping, possession of vaping products, and associated safeguarding concerns.

- This policy should be read alongside:
- Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy
- Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy
- RSHE Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct

Objectives

- To provide a vape-free environment for the whole school community.
- To ensure that vaping education forms part of the school's progressive RSHE and drug education curriculum, including health, legal, social and environmental impacts.

- To promote a clear message that Cardinal Langley RC High School is proud to be smoke-free and vape-free.
- To ensure that all staff promote positive attitudes and behaviours in relation to smoking and vaping.
- To ensure that all staff understand procedures for managing vaping incidents and associated safeguarding concerns.
- To involve all staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers and wider agencies in the development of policy and practice.
- To adopt preventative and educational interventions aimed at reducing uptake of vaping.
- To support pupils who wish to stop vaping.
- To ensure that the school's vape-free policy applies on school premises, during off-site visits, and at all school-sponsored events.

The Role of School and Staff

As part of the statutory duty to safeguard and promote pupils' physical and mental health, Cardinal Langley RC High School has a clear role in managing vaping as part of its pastoral and safeguarding responsibilities.

Schools have a statutory duty to teach health education, including drugs, alcohol and tobacco, under the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education regulations.

Cardinal Langley RC High School may need to respond to:

- A pupil vaping in school or on school property.
- A pupil possessing vaping devices or products.
- A pupil selling or distributing vaping products.
- A pupil using vapes to consume illegal substances such as cannabis or THC.
- Safeguarding concerns linked to vaping, including coercion, exploitation, peer pressure, online influences, or criminal activity.

The school will:

- Prohibit vaping and possession of vaping products by pupils on school premises and at school-sponsored events.
- Prohibit vaping by staff in the presence or sight of pupils. Staff and visitors are not allowed to vape or smoke anywhere on the premises.
- Confiscate vaping products in line with DfE guidance.
- Incorporate vaping prevention education across the curriculum through RSHE, science and pastoral work.
- Promote a vape-free environment through assemblies, displays and curriculum delivery.
- Work with external agencies, health professionals and safeguarding partners where necessary.
- Ensure staff receive regular training on emerging vaping trends and safeguarding concerns.
- Review this policy annually to ensure it reflects current legislation and best practice.

The Role of Pupils

- Pupils of Cardinal Langley RC High School have an important role in meeting the objectives of this policy and should understand that:
- Vaping is prohibited on school premises and at all school-sponsored events.
- Possession of vaping devices, e-liquids or related paraphernalia is not permitted.
- Vaping during school hours, including off-site during the school day, is prohibited.
- The sale, supply or distribution of vaping products to other pupils is prohibited.
- Pupils must not promote vaping culture through clothing, conversations, social media or other means whilst representing the school.
- Pupils should report concerns regarding vaping, supply of vapes, or unsafe products to staff.
- Pupils who breach this policy may face disciplinary sanctions.

- Pupils struggling with nicotine dependence are encouraged to seek support.

Search, Screening and Confiscation

The school prioritises prevention through education, clear expectations and early intervention. Vapes are classified as prohibited items under the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy and may be searched for and confiscated in line with the DfE's *Searching, Screening and Confiscation* guidance. Where there is reasonable suspicion, authorised staff may search pupils and their possessions in accordance with school policy.

When conducting searches, staff will:

- Act proportionately and lawfully.
- Consider the pupil's age, needs and vulnerabilities.
- Record searches where appropriate.
- Consider whether the search identifies a wider safeguarding concern.
- Where a vape is confiscated:
 - Parents/carers will be informed.
 - Appropriate sanctions will be applied.
 - Educational or pastoral interventions may be offered.
 - Safeguarding referrals may be made where necessary.

Where a confiscated vape is suspected to contain illegal substances or unknown substances, it will not be immediately destroyed and may be retained for police investigation. The school uses vape sensors in key areas. Activation of sensors may result in investigation, search and sanction.

Disposal and Safe Storage

Safe Storage

Confiscated vaping devices will be stored safely in a designated container away from flammable materials.

Where devices are suspected of containing unknown or illegal substances, these will be stored securely and handed to police where appropriate.

Disposal

Disposable vapes contain batteries and electronic components and are considered Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) under UK law. The school will ensure confiscated vapes are disposed of safely and lawfully through approved disposal routes.

Support for Vaping Behaviour

When vaping behaviour is identified, Cardinal Langley RC High School will:

- Explore any underlying safeguarding, mental health or wellbeing concerns.
- Consider whether vaping may indicate wider vulnerabilities, exploitation, substance misuse or risk-taking behaviour.
- Explore how vaping products were obtained, particularly where illegal sales to minors may have taken place.
- Communicate with parents/carers regarding incidents and next steps.
- Provide advice, support and referrals where appropriate.
- Offer education regarding the health and legal risks of vaping.
- Where appropriate, the school will take a graduated response:
 - First incident: confiscation, sanction, parental contact and educational intervention.
 - Repeated incidents: behavioural sanction and pastoral intervention.
 - Supply/distribution: suspension and safeguarding review.
 - Illegal substances: referral to safeguarding leads, police and specialist services, possible permanent exclusion.

- Reasonable adjustments will be considered for pupils with SEND or identified vulnerabilities to ensure responses are fair, proportionate and supportive.
- Pupils can access support for nicotine dependence through the school nursing team.

Managing the Use of Cannabis and Other Illegal Substances in Vapes

Vapes may be used to consume illegal substances such as cannabis, THC or synthetic substances.

Where there is suspicion or evidence that a vape contains illegal substances:

- The incident will be managed under the school's Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy
- The vape may be retained for police investigation
- Safeguarding procedures will be followed
- Parents/carers will be informed
- External agencies may be involved.

The school recognises that substance misuse may be linked to wider vulnerabilities including child criminal exploitation, mental health concerns or peer pressure.

Online Safety and Vaping

The school recognises that social media and online platforms may contribute to the normalisation and promotion of vaping. Pupils will be educated about:

- Online marketing tactics aimed at young people.
- Risks associated with counterfeit and illicit vape products.
- Unsafe online purchasing.
- The influence of social media trends on health behaviours.
- Online safety concerns relating to vaping will be managed in line with the school's Online Safety Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

Working with Wider Partners

School Nurses - School nurses may provide support and interventions for pupils who wish to stop vaping.

Early Break / Substance Misuse Services - Where there are concerns regarding nicotine dependency, THC use or substance misuse.

Trading Standards - Where there are concerns regarding illegal sales, counterfeit products or underage supply.

Police - Where criminal activity, supply, illegal substances or exploitation are suspected.

Safeguarding Teams - Where vaping behaviour indicates wider vulnerability, harm, exploitation or significant risk.

Public Health - To support preventative education and awareness.

The school recognises that vaping may be a presenting behaviour for wider safeguarding concerns. In line with KCSiE, all staff will remain professionally curious and respond appropriately.

Policy Approval

Chair/Vice-Chair of the C&P Committee:		Date:	08.07.2026
Headteacher:		Date:	08.07.2026