



Leigh Academy
Strood

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Vaping Policy

Academic year 2025/26

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Leigh Academy Strood Vaping Policy

Leigh Academy Strood is committed to a healthy and safe environment for students and staff. This policy prohibits vaping and e-cigarette use and possession on academy 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.
- Pupils seen using a vape in academy uniform at any time will be subject to consequences as per our behaviour policy.
- Vaping includes inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated tobacco/nicotine product (natural or synthetic) in any form.

Dangers of vaping

Vaping, also known as e-cigarette use, is inhaling the aerosol, or vapour, produced by an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or other similar vaping device. E-cigarettes have been around for a relatively short time, and the long-term health effects are still unknown. However, there is growing evidence that vaping can be harmful to your lungs and heart.

Here are some of the dangers of vaping:

- **Addiction:** E-cigarettes/Vapes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can lead to dependence. Nicotine addiction can make it difficult to quit vaping, even if you know it's harmful to your health.
- **Lung damage:** The aerosol produced by e-cigarettes contains a variety of chemicals, including ultrafine particles, heavy metals, and flavourings. These chemicals can irritate the lungs and cause inflammation, which can lead to coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath. Some of the flavourings in e-cigarettes may be especially harmful to the lungs.
- **Heart disease:** The chemicals in e-cigarettes can also damage the heart and blood vessels. This can increase your risk of heart attack, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases.
- **Brain development:** Nicotine can harm the developing brain, which can lead to problems with learning, memory, and attention.

Other risks of vaping include:

- **Exposure to secondhand aerosol:** The aerosol produced by e-cigarettes can be harmful to bystanders, including children.
- **Risk of fire and explosion:** E-cigarettes contain lithium ion batteries, which can overheat and explode.
- **Poisoning:** E-cigarette liquid is poisonous if swallowed.

If you are considering vaping, it is important to be aware of the risks. Vaping is not a safe alternative to smoking cigarettes.

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 academy grounds will result in either a 5-day Lodge provision, off-site direction, Suspension or Permanent Exclusion.
- Repeat offences will face progressively escalated sanctions.
- This extends to traveling to and from the academy.

For THC Vapes:

- Possession or use of a THC vape will involve immediate Police notification and will result in a Suspension or Permanent Exclusion.
- This extends to traveling to and from the academy.

Prevention:

- The academy reserves 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 a student/s is found in toilet cubicles with a peer/s this will result in 1 day in the Internal Engagement Room followed by a 60 min detention (students will also be searched and if found with a vape or prohibited items they will receive the above sanction in line with our behaviour policy, please see behaviour policy for further information)

- **Vaping Prevention Programme:** To educate students on the risks of vaping, nicotine addiction, and the academy's vaping policy, students caught are referred to a program led by Open Road. Additionally, all students will receive ongoing education about the dangers of vaping through the Personal Development curriculum.
- **Student Support:** The academy offers support for students struggling with nicotine addiction or substance abuse, including counselling services, academy nurse and referrals to external organisations.