



SMOKING POLICY

Last reviewed:	May 2024
Next review due:	May 2026
Reviewed by:	Director of Pastoral Care & Wellbeing

1. Policy

Smoking (or the possession of smoking materials) by students is not allowed either in school, in the local surroundings (including in Summertown) or in any other place where that student could be linked to, or associated with d'Overbroeck's. This policy also covers vaping 'e-cigarettes'.

d'Overbroeck's recognises the significant health risks posed by the smoking of cigarettes and vapes. The school disapproves of smoking in any context or environment and takes very seriously its duty to educate and protect the children and adults of the school community from the effects of smoking – both active and passive.

The main concern leading to this policy is the risk to the health of the smoker and others. Additional factors have included: the danger of starting a fire within school buildings, physical damage, smell, mess, and the effect on the reputation of everyone in the school community.

We invite parents, carers and guardians to play their part in discouraging young people from smoking; and will work with them to safeguard and support students.

The procedures we are currently using to discourage smoking are as follows:

- **Education** – about the effects of smoking/vaping forms an important part of the Personal Development programme;
- **Raising awareness** – using a variety of media and activities;
- **Counselling/cessation support** – from specialist staff/agencies with the appropriate expertise for those wishing to quit smoking;
- **Sanctions** – as described in the following section.

2. Disciplinary sanctions

2.1 The consequences for a student of being caught in breach of the smoking rules will be as follows:

- **Smoking/vaping in a building or in the school grounds whilst at school or on a school trip:**

Any student found to be smoking or vaping in a building will be suspended from school. The length of the suspension will be decided by the Principal, and will depend on the circumstances, such as whether it is the first occasion for the student or follows a previous incident of smoking or vaping. A student's continued involvement in smoking or vaping is likely to result in permanent exclusion.

- **Smoking/vaping on the streets bordering any school site or Boarding House (including in Summertown) or being found in possession of smoking/vaping materials:**

Parents/guardians will be informed in writing and the letter will state what the escalation process will be should there be further incidents. A meeting will be arranged with the appropriate first line of support at the school for help with smoking education and cessation. Should further incident/s occur, the consequences will escalate:

- student will be required to meet with the Head of Section (if they haven't already);
- parents/guardians will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the repeated breach of school rules.

2.2 A student's place at the school will be put at risk by their continued involvement with smoking or vaping.

3. Policy notes

- 3.1 After the first time of being in breach of the smoking policy, the school's response to subsequent occasions will escalate.
- 3.2 A student with a cigarette/vape in their mouth or hand, or who is discarding a cigarette/vape is considered in breach of the smoking rules (ie, irrespective of whether the cigarette is lit or unlit).
- 3.3 A student may be asked to empty their pockets or bags when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that they possess smoking or vaping materials.
- 3.4 Students who are found to have cigarettes or vapes in their lockers or in their possession will have them confiscated by staff and parents/guardians will be informed. The cigarettes/vapes will be destroyed (or, in exceptional circumstances, returned to parents/guardians). Any search will be conducted in line with d'Overbroeck's 'Conducting a Search – Policy and Procedure'.
- 3.5 Students must not supply cigarettes or vapes to other students. Any incident involving the supply of cigarettes or vapes to other students will be taken very seriously, and followed up in accordance with d'Overbroeck's 'Behaviour, Rules, Rewards and Sanctions policy'.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Behaviour, Rules, Rewards and Sanctions Policy
- Boarding House Rules
- Conducting a Search – Policy and Procedure
- Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children Policy
- School Lockers Policy
- Student/Parent Handbooks