



Anti-vaping Policy

Policy Name	Anti-smoking and Drug Prevention Policy
Adopted Date	November 2025
Review Date	September 2026
Policy Owner	Principal – Olivia Rumah
Policy Lead	Head of Inclusion – Aji Amal Raj





Vision:

At Oaktree Primary School, our vision is to nurture and challenge everyone in our learning community to be the best they can be.

Mission:

At Oaktree Primary School, our mission is to place children and families at the heart of everything we do, creating a vibrant, multicultural community school. Our aim is to create a safe, meaningful, and stimulating learning environment, where every day there is a magical journey of learning and enquiry for children to grow and be challenged to be the best people they can be. We aim to provide a child-centered, innovative, and inspiring curriculum developing lifelong learning skills. At Oaktree Primary School, we believe that we can achieve more when we share a common direction and a sense of community. Our mission is to embed an ethos of respect for each other and collaboration, valuing student, parent, and staff voices.

Values:

Oaktree Primary is a caring school, and we have defined four key values using the acronym 'CARE'

COLLABORATION: 'Sharing and Learning together'. Collaboration is working together in a team, contributing ideas and listening to each other to achieve our common goals.

ACHIEVEMENT: 'Be the best you can be.' Achievement is striving to attain your personal goals, demonstrating perseverance and resilience.

RESPECT: Respect each other and our environment'. Respect involves taking responsibility for each other. Respect is speaking to and interacting with others in a courteous manner. It is about being honest, reliable and trustworthy.

EMPATHY: 'Treat others with care and compassion'. Empathy means trying to understand other people's views or feelings and being supportive and caring towards them.

Oaktree Primary School Reference documents:

- KHDA Guide to Drugs Prevention in the School Environment and FAQs on Drugs Prevention
- Oaktree Primary School Health and Safety Policy

Purpose

This policy sets out Oaktree Primary School's comprehensive approach to preventing, identifying, managing and responding to vaping (use or possession of electronic cigarettes and related devices). It is fully aligned with KHDA Anti-Vaping Guidance and UAE legislation and reflects the school's commitment to safeguarding, wellbeing, education and positive behaviour management.





The policy recognises that Oaktree is a primary school (EYFS–Year 6) and therefore adopts a preventive, educational and restorative approach, rather than a punitive one, while maintaining clear expectations and boundaries.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils from FS1 to Year 6
- All staff (teaching and non-teaching)
- Parents and carers
- Visitors, contractors and volunteers
- All school premises, school transport, off-site visits, residentials and any activity where pupils represent the school

Legal and regulatory context

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- UAE Federal laws prohibiting the sale, possession and promotion of vaping products to minors
- KHDA Anti-Vaping Guidance for Private Schools in Dubai
- Oaktree Primary School policies, including:
 - Safeguarding and Child Protection
 - Behaviour Policy
 - Wellbeing Policy
 - Inclusion Policy
 - Health & Safety Policy

Definitions

- Vaping: The use of electronic cigarettes or similar devices that heat liquid to create an aerosol for inhalation.
- Vaping products: E-cigarettes, vape pens, pods, mods, cartridges, refills, disposable vapes and accessories, with or without nicotine.
- Nicotine: A highly addictive substance that can negatively impact children's brain development, concentration and emotional regulation.





Policy statement

Oaktree Primary School is a vape-free school. The possession, use, distribution or promotion of vaping products is strictly prohibited:

- On school premises
- On school transport
- During off-site activities and educational visits
- At any event where pupils are under the supervision of the school

The school acknowledges that pupils may be exposed to vaping through family members, media or peers. Our response prioritises education, early intervention, safeguarding and partnership with parents.

Rationale and risks

Vaping poses significant risks to children, including:

- Exposure to nicotine and harmful chemicals
- Increased risk of addiction
- Impact on physical health, emotional wellbeing and learning
- Normalisation of harmful behaviours

As a primary school, Oaktree has a duty to protect pupils from harm and reduce exposure to age-inappropriate and illegal substances.

Prevention and education

Oaktree Primary School adopts a whole-school preventive approach:

Curriculum

- Age-appropriate learning within PSHE, wellbeing and science
- Focus on healthy choices, peer pressure, decision-making and personal safety
- Reinforcement of school values: caring, respect, empathy and achieving personal best

Staff training

- Annual staff training on identifying vaping devices and indicators
- Clear guidance on reporting, recording and responding
- Updates provided when KHDA guidance changes





Pupil voice

- Safe opportunities for pupils to ask questions and express concerns
- Reinforcement of trusted adults and reporting routes

Parent engagement

- Regular communication regarding health and wellbeing expectations
- Guidance shared with parents on the risks of vaping
- Workshops or information sessions where appropriate

School environment

- Clear signage stating that Oaktree is a vape-free school
- Positive role-modelling by all adults on site

Roles and responsibilities

Principal

- Ensures implementation, monitoring and compliance with this policy
- Liaises with KHDA or external agencies where required

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Leads safeguarding responses linked to vaping concerns
- Determines whether concerns meet safeguarding thresholds
- Coordinates support and referrals

Staff

- Model vape-free behaviour at all times
- Challenge and report concerns promptly
- Follow agreed procedures for confiscation and recording

Parents and carers

- Support the school's vape-free expectations
- Ensure pupils do not bring prohibited items to school
- Engage constructively with the school if concerns arise





Identification and indicators

Possible indicators may include:

- Possession of unfamiliar devices or accessories
- Strong or unusual smells
- Changes in behaviour, mood or concentration
- Peer-related concerns or disclosures

Any suspicion must be reported immediately to a senior leader or DSL.

Reporting and recording procedures

- Incidents must be logged on the school's behaviour and/or safeguarding system
- Parents are informed promptly
- Patterns or repeat concerns are monitored and reviewed

Response and consequences (age-appropriate)

Primary-aged pupils

Responses are proportionate and may include:

- Immediate removal of the item and safeguarding discussion
- Parent meeting and shared action plan
- Educational intervention focusing on health and safety
- Restorative conversation aligned with the Behaviour Policy
- Wellbeing or counselling support
- External agency referral if required

Sanctions are never punitive in isolation and are always accompanied by education and support.

Staff, visitors and contractors

- Staff: Managed through the Staff Code of Conduct and HR procedures
- Visitors/contractors: Required to comply with vape-free expectations while on site

Safeguarding and wellbeing considerations

Any of the following will trigger safeguarding procedures:





- Access to illegal substances
- Signs of nicotine dependency
- Coercion, exploitation or peer pressure
- Repeated incidents or escalation of concern

The school counsellor and external agencies may be involved where appropriate.

Confiscation, storage and disposal

- Confiscated items are logged, labelled and stored securely
- Items are not returned to pupils
- Disposal follows KHDA guidance and UAE regulations

Confidentiality and information sharing

- Information is shared on a need-to-know basis
- Safeguarding concerns override confidentiality where a child is at risk

Monitoring, evaluation and review

- Incident data analysed termly
- Effectiveness evaluated through pupil voice, staff feedback and parent engagement
- Policy reviewed annually or in response to KHDA or legislative updates

Policy approval

This policy is approved by the school leadership and governing body and is effective from the date of ratification. *This Anti-Vaping Policy reflects KHDA guidance and Oaktree Primary School's commitment to safeguarding, wellbeing and high standards of care.*

Policy Review Log

Date	Changes	Reviewed By
211125	Annual Reviews	Principal
210926	Policy Review	Principal
211125	Policy Updated	DoS



