

Urban Pursuit

Policy name: Student Smoking & Vaping	
Reviewed by: Dan Potter	
Last reviewed: Jan 2025	Next review due: Jan 2028

Policies are reviewed every 3 years as standard.

Updates

Date	Update
24/1/25	Added context to the introduction and added vaping, rather than just smoking.
16/3/26	Added comment in introduction to address alternative tobacco products.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the policy is to set out Urban Pursuit's approach to students smoking and vaping whilst under our provision. The context of UK law is that the government proposed laws in November 2024 to incrementally increase the legal age of smoking, which mean that anyone aged 15 or under at that time will never be allowed to legally smoke. The intention is to create a 'smoke free generation'. Vaping within schools has also had a lot of media attention, with many schools clamping down hard on a zero tolerance policy. Whilst we have the capacity at Urban Pursuit to be somewhat more flexible, we do want to work within an awareness of the wider context.

There are occasionally other substances which arise which are comparable to smoking or vaping, for example 'snus' or tobacco pouches. Due to the uncertainty around the impact of such products and the social considerations around potentially illegality, we will not allow use of these products and if there is any doubt we will treat in the same way as illegal substances.

STUDENTS SMOKING

1. Students in Year 7-9 should not be smoking or vaping under any circumstances.
2. Students in Year 10 and above will be allowed to smoke a limited number of cigarettes, or time to vape during agreed breaks, **only if it is already a habit known and agreed to by school and home.** This should be avoided if possible.

3. Students should be limited to 3 smoking/vape breaks during the day at Urban Pursuit. Parents and schools should be informed if this is exceeded.
4. When smoking or vaping, students should stand away from anyone else not smoking, in a designated spot outlined by the group leader.
5. Students are to hand in their cigarettes, tobacco or vape to a member of staff at the start of the day. The day leader will then distribute these back to the student during the designated breaks.
6. Under no circumstance should students be sharing cigarettes, tobacco or a vape with other students. If they do, parents and schools of both students will be informed.