مدرستنا الثانوية الإنجليزية ، الشارقة ـ بنات
Our Own English High School, Sharjah-Girls

GEMS EDUCATION

OOS Anti Vaping Policy

Implemented : March 2025

Reviewed : December 2025

Next Review : May 2027

Compiled by: SLT/SMT/MSO

Approved by: Ms. Asma Gilani, Principal & CEO

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1. Purpose

This policy outlines the school's measures to prevent, detect, and respond to vaping among students. It ensures compliance with UAE health regulations and promotes a safe, healthy, and vape-free learning environment.

2. Policy Statement

The school adopts a **zero-tolerance approach** to vaping. Students are strictly prohibited from:

- Possessing any vape device or e-cigarette
- Using vape devices anywhere on school premises or transport
- Selling, distributing, or promoting vape products
- Engaging in online sales/distribution of vape devices

This policy applies to all students from **KG to Grade 12**, during:

- School hours
- School transport
- School-organized trips and events
- Any school-related digital platforms

3. UAE Legal Framework

In accordance with **Federal Law No. 15/2009 (Tobacco Control Law)** and MOHAP/DHA/EHS directives:

- Sale or purchase of vape devices is **illegal for anyone under 18**
- Vaping is banned in schools, malls, healthcare facilities, and enclosed public spaces
- Violations in restricted areas may result in **fines up to AED 2,000**
- Vendors providing vape products to minors face fines between **AED 50,000 – AED 1,000,000** (Dubai Municipality Circular 61/2023)
- Schools must report suspected illegal sales involving minors

4. Implementing Anti-Vaping Measures

A. Prevention & Education

1. Lessons & Curriculum

Teachers will integrate age-appropriate vaping awareness topics into:

- PSHE / Moral Education
- Wellness & Life Skills
- Science (respiratory health, addiction psychology)

Topics include:

- Vaping risks & health consequences
- Nicotine addiction and adolescent brain impact
- Peer pressure and decision-making skills
- UAE vaping laws and consequences

2. Assemblies & Workshops

The school will:

- Host awareness sessions led by healthcare professionals
- Conduct anti-vaping campaigns
- Encourage student-led advocacy initiatives

3. Posters & Visual Campaigns

- Warning posters in toilets, corridors, and common areas
- Digital signage and announcements
- Parent information leaflets

B. Detection & Monitoring

1. Vape Detectors

- Sensors may be installed in school bathrooms and other high-risk areas
- Alerts will notify senior leadership immediately

2. Staff Patrols

- Increased supervision during breaks and transitions
- Random checks where reasonable suspicion exists

3. Anonymous Reporting

Students may report concerns through:

- School safeguarding email
- Anonymous reporting box
- Online reporting form

All reports remain confidential.

C. Sanctions & Support

1. Sanctions

The consequences for violating the vaping policy are:

First Offense

- Confiscation of device
- Parent notification
- Mandatory workshop on vaping risks

Second Offense

- Internal suspension
- Mandatory counseling with school nurse or counsellor
- Parent meeting

Third Offense

- Expulsion
- Behaviour Review Panel
- Possible referral to authorities if illegal substances or supply networks are involved

2. Support for Addiction

Students showing signs of nicotine dependence will be referred to:

- School nurse / wellbeing counselor
- DHA Tobacco Control Program (04-219-8888)
- EHS Smoking Cessation Clinics
- DHA "Quit Tobacco" support (WhatsApp: **050-505-7171**)

The aim is to rehabilitate rather than punish.

D. Policy Updates & Parental Agreements

1. Behaviour Policy Revision

The Behaviour Policy will:

- Explicitly ban vaping, possession, and distribution
- Outline sanctions clearly
- Integrate reporting pathways

2. Parental Agreements

Parents are expected to:

- Monitor children's belongings
- Educate them about vaping risks

E. Review Cycle

This policy will be reviewed **annually** based on updates from:

- MOHAP School Health Guidelines
- DHA circulars
- EHS public health advisories
- Federal Law amendments

Support Contacts

MOHAP Hotline: 04-230-1000
DHA Tobacco Control: 04-219-8888
Quit Tobacco Clinic (WhatsApp): 050-505-7171
EHS Smoking Cessation Services: www.ehs.gov.ae