

Australian International School Dubai Anti-Vaping Policy

(Comply with KHDA Anti-Vaping Guidance – 2025/2026)

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Board Approval: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

1. Introduction

Australian International School (AIS) Dubai is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment for all students. In line with KHDA expectations, the school recognises the growing concern regarding vaping among young people and the associated risks to physical health, emotional wellbeing, and school safety.

Vaping undermines the school's duty of care and contradicts the principles of student wellbeing, safeguarding, and positive behaviour. This policy sets out AIS Dubai's proactive, structured, and consistent approach to preventing, identifying, and responding to vaping within the school community.

This policy is aligned with KHDA guidance and applies to all students, staff, parents, visitors, and contractors.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students (with particular focus on Years 7–12)
- All staff and adults on campus
- School premises, school transport, and all school-related activities (on-site and off-site)

3. Policy Statement (Mandatory)

- In accordance with KHDA safeguarding and wellbeing requirements:
- Vaping is strictly prohibited for students and adults:
- On school premises
- On school buses
- During school activities, trips, and events
- Possession, use, or promotion of vaping devices is not permitted.
- AIS Dubai applies a graduated response model that prioritises student wellbeing, early intervention, and safeguarding, alongside proportionate disciplinary measures.

Section 1: School Policy Measures

(Mandatory Measures)

AIS Dubai will:

1. Explicitly prohibit vaping
 - Vaping (including possession, use, or distribution of vaping devices) is strictly prohibited for students and adults:
 - On school premises
 - On school transport
 - During all school-related activities
2. Update Behaviour and Safeguarding Policies
 - Vaping is clearly defined as a behavioural and safeguarding concern.
 - Policies are communicated annually to students, staff, and parents.
3. Visible Signage
 - Anti-vaping signage displayed in high-risk areas:
 - Toilets
 - Stairwells
 - Outdoor areas
 - Reviewed through regular facilities checks.
4. Graduated Response Model
 - A tiered response framework combining:
 - Behavioural consequences

- Wellbeing support
- Parent engagement
- Ensures fairness, proportionality, and consistency.

5. Confidential Reporting Mechanisms

- Anonymous reporting channels for students and staff.
- Confidential support requests for students seeking help.

6. Annual Review

- Policy reviewed annually to ensure alignment with KHDA guidance and emerging trends.

Section 2: Preventive Education Strategies

(Mandatory & Recommended Measures)

AIS Dubai will:

1. Integrate vaping education into:

- Health, science, and wellbeing curricula

2. Deliver age-appropriate, evidence-based education addressing:

- Health risks of vaping
- Nicotine addiction
- Social and peer influences

3. Embed vaping awareness within:

- Wellbeing programmes
- Safeguarding sessions
- Delivery and effectiveness are monitored annually.

Section 3: Student Engagement Strategies

(Recommended Measures)

AIS Dubai will:

- Promote student voice and leadership through:
- Peer-led awareness initiatives
- Student ambassador programmes
- Student council involvement
- Encourage students to act as role models and advocates for healthy choices.

Section 4: Parental Engagement Strategies

(Recommended Measures)

AIS Dubai will:

1. Provide parents with clear information on:
 - Risks of vaping
 - Early warning signs
 - How to discuss vaping at home
2. Deliver communication through:
 - Multilingual workshops
 - Newsletters and digital platforms
3. Ensure inclusivity reflecting Dubai's diverse community.

Section 5: Support and Intervention

(Mandatory Measures)

AIS Dubai will:

1. Train all staff annually to:

- Identify early indicators of vaping
- Respond appropriately and sensitively
- 2. Establish clear referral pathways to:
 - Counselling services
 - Wellbeing and safeguarding teams
 - School medical team
- 3. Ensure coordinated responses through:
 - Regular multidisciplinary meetings
 - Documented intervention plans

The focus remains on early intervention, student wellbeing, and long-term behavioural change.

Section 6: Data, Reporting, and Compliance

(Mandatory Measures)

AIS Dubai will:

1. Maintain accurate internal records of:
 - All vaping-related incidents, concerns, and interventions
2. Report incidents to KHDA through:
 - Approved safeguarding channels (once available)
3. Review data termly to:
 - Identify trends
 - Inform prevention strategies
 - Refine policies and practices
4. Prepare for KHDA compliance checks through:

- Internal audits
- Evidence-based documentation

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if required by KHDA updates.

Implementation evidence will be documented by January 2026, with full implementation by the start of the 2026–27 academic year, in line with KHDA expectations.

Role	Responsibility
Principal / Leadership	Overall oversight and KHDA compliance
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Safeguarding response and reporting
Wellbeing & Medical Team	Education, support, and intervention
Counselling Team	Student support and follow-up
Teaching & Support Staff	Monitoring, reporting, and awareness
Students	Follow school rules and policies
Parents	Support and cooperate with the school

Appendix A: Student-Friendly Summary (KHDA-Aligned Language)

Keeping Our School Safe and Healthy

- Vaping is not allowed at school, on buses, or during school activities.
- Vaping can harm your health and wellbeing.
- If a student is involved in vaping, the school will:
 - ❖ Focus on support and wellbeing
 - ❖ Involve parents
 - ❖ Provide guidance and help
- If you are worried about yourself or a friend:
 - ❖ Speak to a trusted adult

- ❖ Contact the wellbeing team
- ❖ Use the confidential reporting system

AIS Dubai is committed to supporting students to make safe and healthy choices.