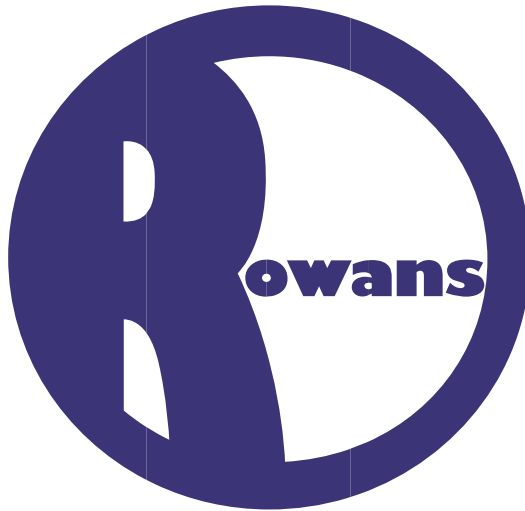




Smoking, Vaping, Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Policy Written/Reviewed by	Fiona May
Date of Review	September 2026
Date of Next Review	September 2027

The Rowans AP Academy is a smoke-free, vape-free, drug-free and alcohol-free site. Smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere on the Academy site, including buildings and outside areas. The possession, use, supply or distribution of illegal drugs and the unauthorised possession or consumption of alcohol are prohibited. Lawful medicines are managed in accordance with the Academy's procedures for supporting pupils with medical needs.

England's smoke-free legislation has prohibited smoking in virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces since 1 July 2007. From 1 June 2025, businesses have been prohibited from selling or supplying single-use vapes. From 29 October 2026, age-of-sale restrictions apply to all vaping products, including non-nicotine vapes, and to nicotine products such as nicotine pouches.

Rationale

- Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in society.
- Schools have a major role to play in working towards the prevention of smoking amongst pupils and providing a safe environment, free from second hand smoke.
- Smoking represents a health and safety issue for all adults and pupils who use the school.
- Everyone has the right to breathe clean air.
- Schools have a major role in working towards the education of pupils towards a healthy lifestyle.

For the purposes of this policy, the term 'drugs' is used broadly and includes illegal and controlled drugs, new psychoactive substances, alcohol, tobacco, vapes, nicotine products, volatile substances and other substances used for an intoxicating or psychoactive effect. The policy also covers the inappropriate possession, supply or misuse of prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

Roles and responsibilities

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy and shares responsibility for its development, monitoring and review with the Leadership Team. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) oversees safeguarding concerns arising from smoking, vaping, drugs and alcohol, including concerns about exploitation, substance misuse or risk of harm. Drug-related incidents will be managed by the Headteacher, DSL and relevant senior staff as appropriate. Governors/trustees maintain oversight of the Academy's safeguarding and policy arrangements.

Smoke, Vape, Drug and Alcohol-Free Environment

The following statements apply to all staff, pupils and visitors to the school e.g. parents, visiting suppliers, temporary staff, contractors and trustees.

1. Smoking, drugs or alcohol are not permitted in any part of the school site at any time. This includes all school buildings and the outside areas of the school including playgrounds, sports field or car parks.
2. The use of Smoking, vapes, drugs and alcohol by anyone on a school visit or trip is not permitted.
3. Smoking and vaping at the entrances and exits to the school site is not permitted.
4. All transport provided by the school is smoke, drugs and alcohol free.
5. All pupils, parents/carers and staff are notified of the no smoking, vaping, drugs and alcohol policy prior to their child's admission.
6. All staff are notified of the school's no smoking, vaping, drugs or alcohol policy during their interview and induction.

Sanctions

The day-to-day implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the whole school community and everybody has a duty to respond appropriately to breaches. The Headteacher retains overall responsibility, with relevant responsibilities delegated to staff.

Pupils who breach this policy will be responded to in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour, Inclusion and Relationships Policy. Responses will be proportionate and will consider the individual circumstances of the pupil, including safeguarding concerns, SEND, vulnerability, exploitation, peer influence and possible substance dependency. Appropriate education and support will be offered alongside any consequence.

Pupils who smoke or vape on school site will be given 15 minutes of reflection time on each occasion at the end of the day and their parents/carers will be informed.

Drug or alcohol related incidents

The Rowans AP Academy does not permit pupils to bring illegal drugs, unauthorised alcohol or other prohibited substances onto the Academy premises or to school activities. Possession, use, supply, sharing or distribution will be taken seriously and managed in accordance with safeguarding and behaviour procedures.

Parents/carers will normally be informed, unless doing so would place a pupil at increased risk of harm. The DSL will consider whether police, children's social care or other agencies should be contacted. Where there are concerns about supply, coercion, criminal exploitation or county lines, these will be treated as safeguarding concerns.

Where a pupil appears intoxicated, unwell or affected by drugs, alcohol or another substance, their immediate health and safety will take priority. Appropriate first aid and medical advice will be sought and emergency services contacted where necessary. Parents/carers will be informed where appropriate, subject to safeguarding considerations. The DSL will consider any associated safeguarding concerns and whether referrals to external agencies are required.

Staff who choose to smoke off site before or after school, or during designated breaks, must ensure that they are a sufficient distance from the school so that they are not visible by pupils or visitors. Any member of staff who does not adhere to this may be subject to disciplinary procedures.

Searching, Confiscation and Disposal

Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil has a prohibited item, any search will be carried out in accordance with current statutory guidance and the Academy's Searching, Screening and Confiscation procedures. Alcohol, illegal drugs and other prohibited items may be confiscated and dealt with appropriately. Vapes and other electronic nicotine products will be stored and disposed of safely and must not be placed in general waste where this would create a battery or electrical-waste risk.

Safeguarding and Exploitation

Smoking, vaping, alcohol or drug-related behaviour may indicate wider safeguarding needs. Staff will consider whether a pupil may be experiencing coercion, criminal exploitation, county lines involvement, peer pressure, grooming, neglect or other forms of harm. Concerns will be reported to the DSL and managed under the Academy's safeguarding procedures.

Illicit and Drug-Containing Vapes

Any vape suspected of containing THC, cannabis, synthetic cannabinoids or another controlled or psychoactive substance will be treated as a potential drug-related incident. The Academy will prioritise the pupil's

immediate health and safety, follow safeguarding procedures and consider whether police or other agencies should be involved.

Support for Pupils, Parents/Carers and Staff

The Rowans actively supports healthy choices for its pupils. Pupils who are found to be smoking or vaping will be offered support to quit, this will be via a referral to the local NHS stop smoking service.

Where appropriate, pupils may be supported to access nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) following advice from an appropriate healthcare professional or stop-smoking service. Any NRT used during the school day will be managed in accordance with the Academy's procedures for supporting pupils with medical needs and medicines.

As part of a whole school approach to smoking, the school will from time to time communicate the benefits of quitting smoking to parents/carers via usual methods of communication and give details of local sources of support to quit as we recognise the benefits for pupils of a smoke-free home environment.

Staff who wish to stop smoking will also be supported and will have access to external support groups.

The school will support local and national initiatives aimed at smoking/vaping prevention and cessation and where possible take part in events and activities to encourage pupils, parents/carers and staff to stop smoking.

Confidentiality:

Staff working with pupils cannot offer absolute confidentiality. Pupils should be helped to understand that information may need to be shared where there is a safeguarding, welfare or legal concern. Staff should maintain appropriate privacy and only share information with those who need to know.

Where information disclosed by a pupil raises a safeguarding, welfare or legal concern, staff will share relevant information promptly with the DSL or Deputy DSL in accordance with the Academy's safeguarding procedures. Staff must not promise to keep information secret where a pupil or another person may be at risk of harm.

Education and Promotion of Healthy Choices

Pupils will be supported to make healthy choices in relation to smoking through education in PSHE lessons and the general school academic and wider curriculum.

Staff will liaise with relevant agencies such as NHS Stop Smoking Services to stay up to date on issues relating to smoking and teaching resources. The NHS offers a range of free services to help smokers give up. Visit www.nhs.uk/smokefree or call the NHS Smoking Helpline on 0300 123 1044 for more information. The school will also make referrals to Open Road, with a pupil's agreement, to support any young person who is using recreational drugs and wishes to access support.

During weekly assemblies there will be regular inputs about the dangers of smoking/vaping and to celebrate pupils' efforts to stop smoking/vaping.

Drug and alcohol education is developmental and appropriate to the age and needs of every young person. It is part of a well-planned programme, delivered in a supportive atmosphere, where pupils feel comfortable to engage in open discussion and feel confident to ask for help if necessary. Drug and alcohol education:

- Ensures that pupils are able to make informed, healthy choices and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle now and in the future

- Helps pupils develop personal and social skills when making decisions and managing situations where drugs are concerned.
- Provides accurate key information which includes where to go for support and help
- Supports pupils in coping with the pressure and influences that may lead to the misuse of drugs
- Facilitates pupils in exploring their own and other people's attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, dispelling myths and exploring social influences.

Role of the Governors

The Trustees of the provision will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as trustees, including their statutory safeguarding duties. The trustees will support the ethos and values of the school, challenging the school's leadership team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Pupil

This policy takes into consideration the following Articles:

Article 24 – All children have the right to the best possible health

Article 28 – All pupils and young people have a right to primary education, which should be free. Discipline in schools should respect pupils' human dignity. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of

Article 33 – Governments must protect children from the illegal use of drugs and from being involved in the production or distribution of drugs.