



Vaping – update 19.1.23



Background

- A paper on vaping in schools was prepared by a group of Parent Council members
- We are aware that vaping is becoming an issue in schools with some evidence suggesting young people are vaping in class, corridors and in school toilets.
- Vaping is not for children. While it can help people give up smoking, the advice is, if you don't smoke don't vape.
- Most children who try vaping, have also tried smoking, and vaping is far less harmful than smoking, which kills up to two thirds of smokers.
- Vaping is not permitted in Council premises. It is illegal for young people under 18 to buy vapes or for someone to buy a vape for a young person under 18.
- Currently we do not have a consistent policy on vaping in our schools.

Data - CEC

The HWB Census administered last session asked the following question to S2 and S4 pupils;

How often do you use e-cigarettes/vape at present?

4691 responses were given to this question across the city.

Around 400 pupils, or 9%, of S2 and S4 respondents had used an e-cigarette/vape. This was 6% in S2 and 13% in S4.

	Every day	At least once a week, but not everyday	Less than once per week	I do not use e-cigarettes/vape	Prefer not to say
S2	43	57	65	2,460	160
S4	89	66	87	1,566	98



Data – National

- The latest national (UK) data shows the proportion of children vaping is rising, up from 4% in 2020 to 7% in 2022, alongside the growing popularity of disposable vapes.
- The number of children who admit to ever trying vaping has risen from 14% in 2020 to 16% in 2022. However, the vast majority of under 18s who have never smoked, have also never vaped, and only 1.9% have vaped more frequently than once or twice.

(ASH guidance on developing school policies on vaping)

HWB Curriculum

Supports children and young people to assess and manage risk, to understand about topics such as vaping and any impacts on health. It also supports them to access practical and emotional help. Specifically, children and young people learn the following in relation to substance misuse;

- The impact of substances on health - positive and negative and legal implications(E – 4th level)
- Pressures (peer/culture/media) and substance use (2nd - 4th level)
- The impact of substances on behaviour and decision making (2nd – 4th level)
- Assessing and managing risk in relation to substance use (2nd – 4th level)
- The impact of substance use on health (2nd – 4th level)

Resources

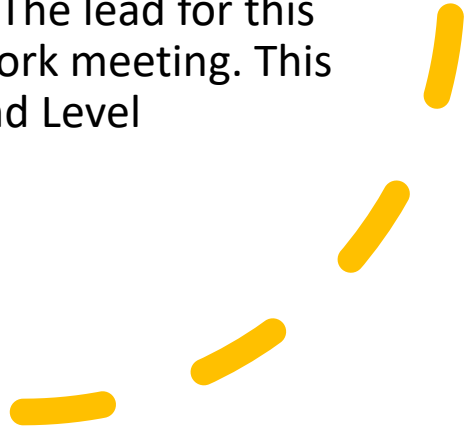
Currently we sign post to two main resources for primary/secondary/special schools to use to support this aspect of the curriculum.

Young people and vaping | ASH Scotland

- Information on young people and vaping
- Activities and resources
- Training opportunities
- Workshops and resources for young people

I Am Me Scotland Learning Platform (iammescotlandeducation.org.uk)

This is a new substance misuse toolkit developed by Renfrewshire Council . This has been shared with secondary PSE Network via new PSE toolkit and to primary schools via the HWB Network. The lead for this resource is to present at the next Primary HWB Network meeting. This will then enable us to update our HWB Early to Second Level progression frameworks to include this resource.



NHS Support

Karen Holmes, Clinical Nurse Manager, Health Visiting West & School Nursing Service , is aware of the need to provide support to schools in this area.

The following information was recently shared with our School Nurse leads in preparation for potentially supporting schools as part of their early intervention/prevention work.

- [New national vaping guidance for schools released by Action on Smoking and Health - ASH](#)
- [ASH-guidance-for-school-vaping-policies.pdf](#)
- [Young people and vaping | ASH Scotland](#)
- [young-people-and-vaping.pdf \(ashscotland.org.uk\)](#)
- [ASH Scotland eLearning \(ashscotlandmoodle.org.uk\)](#)

School nurses are keen to work in partnership with schools, supporting health prevention programmes as part of the CFE

Health Promotion programmes will be reviewed early in the New Year and look to support schools.

NHS Support

Robbie Preece, Health Improvement Lead Tobacco Control, NHS Lothian

NHS Lothian agree that vaping is not for children, but that as a public health approach, it is supporting the reduction of combustible nicotine use which is the number one cause of ill health in the UK. In terms of risk-taking behaviour, vaping is considerably less harmful than other behaviours young people experiment with, therefore a proportionate approach to this issue is advised.

A careful selection of resources are advised to ensure a balanced approach to the curriculum. ASH Scotland (as opposed to ASH) resources are considered to be slightly out of sync with academic research.

Useful signposting from NHS Lothian

- [New national vaping guidance for schools released by Action on Smoking and Health - ASH](#)
- [ASH-guidance-for-school-vaping-policies.pdf](#)

NHS Health are keen to work with us to help develop a consistent approach to the issues and are happy to be involved in a SLWG.

Possible next steps

