



## Anti - Vaping Policy

**Policy Title:** Vaping and use of e cigarette products and other nicotine products

**Effective Date:** December 2024

**Reviewed:** December 2025

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of students at McEgan College by establishing clear rules regarding vaping on school grounds. This policy aims to deter the use of e-cigarettes or vapes and to create a safe and healthy environment for all students.

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to all students attending McEgan College School during school hours, at school-sponsored events, and while on school property.

### 3. Definition of Vaping

Vaping refers to the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) or other devices that simulate the act of smoking by producing a vapor that is inhaled, often containing nicotine or other substances. Nicotine pouches are pouches that dispense nicotine by being lodged between gum and lip.

### 4. Prohibited Actions

The following actions are strictly prohibited on school grounds and during school-related activities:

- The possession of any vaping device (e.g., e-cigarette, vape (disposable or reusable).
- The use or attempt to use any vaping device.
- The sharing or distribution of vaping devices or related substances.
- The sharing or possession of nicotine pouches.

### 5. Sanctions for Violation

Any student caught with a vaping device or found to be using a vaping device or nicotine pouches during school hours, at school events, or on school property will face the following sanction:

- **Immediate Suspension:**  
If a student is caught in possession of a vaping device or using one, they will be automatically suspended from school. The suspension will be for a minimum period of **one day** and may be extended depending on the severity or frequency of the offence.

Note: To establish evidence of students vaping, the burden of proof lies with the direct observation of a teacher or staff member, either through seeing vapor emissions or witnessing the student in possession of a vape device. In addition, students who are suspected of vaping in school may be asked to voluntarily empty their pockets for inspection to determine if they are carrying a vape.

## 6. Notification and Appeal Process

- **Notification:**  
The parent or guardian of the student will be notified immediately of the suspension.
- **Appeal:**  
If the student wishes to appeal the suspension, they may submit a formal written appeal to the school principal (secretary of the Board of Management) within three school days from the date of the suspension notice. The secretary of the Board of Management will bring the appeal to the Board of Management who will review the case and communicate the outcome of the appeal in writing.

## 7. Education and Awareness

McEgan College will continue to educate students on the risks of vaping through regular awareness programs, assemblies, and resources to support student health and well-being.

The school has a wellbeing Coordinator Ms. Warren. Teachers are offered relevant training through regular in-service training. Outside speakers are used where appropriate to reinforce the work done in class.

Parents/Guardians will be consulted on the need for alcohol, tobacco, vaping and drug education and will be informed of what is happening in the school.

Student Health Education will be achieved through: SPHE Programme Junior Cycle Wellbeing Programme, RE programme at Senior Cycle & Leaving Certificate Applied with the Social Education module. First Aid Course in Transition Year and outside speakers where appropriate for example An Garda Síochána, HSE, etc.

The school is actively investigating the installation of alarms in the restrooms to help deter and monitor vaping activities, ensuring a safer and healthier environment for all students.

## 8. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains effective and in alignment with the best practices for promoting student health and safety.

## 9. Conclusion

By enforcing this policy, McEgan College seeks to maintain a safe and healthy school environment. The school is committed to supporting students in making healthy choices, free from the dangers of vaping.

**Approved by:**

**Principal** *Patricia Lyran*

**Date:** 17/12/24

*Una O'Donnell*

**Chairperson Board of Management:**