7/6/24

Dear Parent / Carer.

I am writing to ask for your support in keeping our children safe. We are learning more and more about the dangers of young people vaping while at the same time not knowing anything about long term side effects.

Recently, we shared on our school bulletin a link to an article on the BBC website that revealed vapes spiked with illegal synthetic drugs were leading to increasing numbers of children needing medical attention in nearby Teesside. The link is here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpeen33jlnyo>

Shops and other retailers cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. This includes the sale of vaping equipment, including liquids and devices. People under the age of 18 should not be purchasing or be in possession of alternative nicotine products such as vapes. Whilst the sale of items as detailed above is illegal, students have reported to us that they are able to acquire devices online or from older siblings, friends and unfortunately in some instances even parents/carers.

I am sure that you will agree that the possession and use of vapes on the school site is something that we simply cannot tolerate; consequently, we will view this in the same way as incidents of smoking or possession of smoking paraphernalia. We have a zero-tolerance policy regarding cigarettes, cigarette papers, lighters, and any smoking-related paraphernalia, including vapes and e-cigarettes. Any student who is found to be in the possession of paraphernalia linked to smoking or vaping will have the items confiscated and may receive additional sanctions in line with our behaviour policy. Confiscated items will be properly disposed of by the school and not returned.

Where we believe that a confiscated vape may contain toxic and harmful substances, we will be asking our local community police team to collect items for testing.

We will continue our work in school to educate pupils regarding the dangers of vaping and the legality surrounding this as part of our personal development curriculum.

You can find more guidance around vaping at [NHS Better Health.](https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/vaping-to-quit-smoking/young-people-and-vaping/)

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Anthony Logan

Deputy Headteacher