

Dear Parents/Carers

Over the past few months, we have become aware of an increase in the use of THC vapes amongst our young people. All vaping is illegal for young people under the age of 18 and under no circumstance should you allow your child to use vapes, to do so is to break the law. THC vapes are illegal for any use in the UK because they contain THC, which is the main psychoactive substance found in cannabis. These vapes are being sold illegally to young people through vape shops or are being sold or given to them by other young people. These vapes are unregulated and could contain other even more dangerous substances than THC.

THC vapes are dangerous and pose a significant health risk to users. I will be taking a tough line on all vaping, as it is impossible for us to differentiate a standard vape from a vape containing an illegal substance such as THC. I have a duty of care to students and staff at the school and as such we will be adopting a zero-tolerance approach to vaping at the school. We will also be conducting regular searches to ensure that young people are not in possession of vapes. There is no reason why a young person would need to bring a vape to school and we will do all that we can to ensure that they are not in circulation.

If we catch a young person with a vape, we will confiscate it, invite parents in for a meeting and issue a school detention. If the same young person is caught in possession of a vape a second time we will suspend from school and we will search the student daily. If a young person uses a vape in school, they will be suspended and if they continue after the first offence then they will be putting their school place at risk. If we have evidence that any young person is using a THC vape at school, then they could face permanent exclusion. If a young person supplies THC vapes to another young person, we will treat this offence as drug dealing and that young person will be permanently excluded from school. We will involve the Police in all incidents relating to the use or supply of THC vapes.

We already have strong safeguarding measures in place: the school is covered by CCTV, vape detectors are in the toilets, and we have a strong duty team. Can I ask parents to be equally vigilant in observing the behaviour of their children, if they appear unusually drowsy, red eyed or lethargic then you need to investigate why this is. Vapes are easy to conceal and do not have the strong odour that you would associate with cannabis use. I have attached a fact sheet to help parents, please inform us if you have concerns or questions. I will protect the safety of my students and I am sure that parents appreciate my strong stance on this issue.

Yours sincerely

**Ms U Ishtiaq
Headteacher**