

Mike Pride
Executive Headteacher
Kingsmead School & Newtons Walk
Bridge Street
Derby
DE1 3LB

Your ref:
Our ref: MP/SB
Date: 19 June 2023
Contact: Mike Pride
Tel: 01332 973830

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may have read in the news recently, there has been a significant increase in young people using vapes or e-cigarettes. As schools in Derby, we have also seen this increase and are concerned about the health implications of vaping at this age.

Derby secondary schools are working together to highlight these concerns with our students and their families/carers. This letter is designed to provide you with some key information about the health concerns and the law around vaping.

Health Risks

Vaping is not risk free, and NICE recommends that vaping should be discouraged in children and young people and people who have never smoked. This is because:

- a child's brain is still developing, scientific studies show that it isn't safe for them to use any tobacco product that contains nicotine, including vapes
- Taking nicotine from a vape is still risky even though it isn't from a cigarette.
- Some vape batteries have even exploded and caused serious harm to people.

Vaping and the law

In the UK it is illegal to sell nicotine vaping products to under 18s or for adults to buy them on their behalf. Any retailers selling vapes illegally should be reported to Trading Standards.

School Policy

Education is one of the most effective ways of preventing drug and alcohol misuse and the degree of associated harm.

In Derby secondary schools we are committed to providing a quality health education curriculum. As part of this, students receive quality drug education that includes drugs, alcohol, volatile substances and vaping. This aims to:

- Provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes about vaping.
- Provide accurate information about vaping.
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.

- Widen understanding about related health and social issues.

At each school, vaping incidents will be managed individually and responded to proportionately. The school will need to consider a range of responses and follow their own disciplinary procedures (as outlined in the schools' behaviour policy). Sanctions will be issued for students who:

- Are in possession of vapes/vaping materials
- Have used vapes on school grounds
- Are selling vapes to other students

The school sanctions may include some of the following:-

- Confiscation and informing parent/carer
- Brief intervention to support health behaviour changes
- Behaviour/pastoral support
- Counselling
- Suspension

Each school will apply their own behaviour policy to each individual situation.

Awareness Week

Derby secondary schools are working together to raise awareness of the concerns around vaping. We are planning an awareness week on the week commencing 19th June. During this week we will be delivering assemblies, lessons and sharing awareness raising material with students and families across the city. We are working with the Derby City Public Health team on this important topic too.

Further Information for Parents/Carers:

Please do take time to talk to your child/children about vaping. We have provided an information leaflet for you that may help with this conversation.

If there are vaping products in your house, please store them securely away from children/young people.

If you think a retailer has sold these products to your child then please report this to Trading Standards via the link below:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/>

We hope that this information is useful for you to understand the risks for young people in vaping. We appreciate your support with working together to tackle this issue and support all of our young people in Derby City.

Yours sincerely



Mike Pride
Executive Headteacher