



10th March 2023

Dear All,

Safeguarding: Smoking, Vaping and e-cigarettes

Schools in the BCP area have seen a recent spike in incidents involving children vaping; this mirrors a national trend.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issue, give you resources if you feel your child is involved in this kind of behaviour, as well as alert you to possible repercussions if your child engages in vaping on the school site.

We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on children. We often find that parents are frequently not aware of the risks around vaping, they do not recognise the signs, or the devices themselves. You may be familiar with vapes that emit a plume of smoke, this is not the case with many devices on the market now.

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. The vapour can contain nicotine and other substances which is concerning. The liquids that are vaporized come in many different flavours and might even smell fruity. For example, many of the flavours of these liquid concentrates, or 'vape juices', are sweet and even have names such as cinnamon roll, bubble-gum, lemonade and cookies. The flavours are designed to be appealing to children and the marketing often supports this.

Vaporizers or e-cigarettes come in all different shapes. Some common styles we see look like a thick pen, a stylus for an iPad, a flash drive, or a small flask with a round chimney coming off the top. Some are disposable whilst others require a refill. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack or pencil case items.

The Surgeon General reports that nicotine is addictive and can harm brain development, which continues until about age 25. We know that using nicotine may make it harder for school related tasks such as learning and concentration. Students may not be aware of the harmful effects of vaping.

Vaping and smoking are both illegal and prohibited for the age of pupils at Broadstone Middle. Therefore, we reserve the right to put in place the appropriate consequences for this and you will be informed on an individual basis.

We hope you find this letter informative and understand our concerns about this potentially harmful issue that is growing amongst young people. We encourage you to have a conversation with your child about this topic. As we learn more, we will certainly share that information.

Yours sincerely,

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