

PSW
5 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, there has been a rise in vaping across society, and particularly amongst young people. Our experience at Ken Stimpson Community School, like many other schools, certainly reflects this pattern although we do know that we are referring to a small minority of students. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issue, confirm our policy around this issue, and to provide some useful guidance about this current trend.

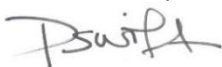
Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporiser (vape) or e-cigarette. The vapour may contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, affect memory, concentration, learning, self-control, attention, and mood. It may also contain other harmful substances besides nicotine. There is not much research or information into the long-term effects of using vapes yet, therefore young people should avoid using them entirely. It is illegal for retailers to sell vapes, or related vaping equipment, to anyone under the age of 18. It is therefore explicitly clear that students in our school should not be purchasing, or be in the possession of, any vape related item. More information around the risks of vaping and the health concerns related to this can be found on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/vaping-to-quit-smoking/>

The safety of our school community remains our top priority and therefore we cannot allow students of any age to bring vapes or vaping equipment into school. If a student is suspected of, or seen, vaping they will be subject to a search and any items found will be confiscated. Confiscated items that breach our behaviour policy will not be returned to the student or family, as they will be passed over to the Police. If a student is seen vaping or found to have a vape in their possession, they will be internally excluded for a minimum of 3 days as this is a significant breach of our school policy. If there is a repeat incident, that student will receive a fixed term suspension from school. Bystanders who are present when a student is caught vaping will be placed into after school detention or, if a repeated incident, will be internally excluded. If there is suspicion that a vape contains any illegal substance, the student in question will receive a fixed term suspension whilst we consider permanent exclusion to ensure the safety of all our students. These rules apply to students as they are entering or exiting the school campus.

We hope this message is clear; vapes are not allowed in or around school and breaches of this will be treated appropriately. Should you wish to refer to our school behaviour policy, it can be found on the school website: <https://www.kscs.org.uk/information/policies/behaviour-learning-policy>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Swift
Vice Principal

