

24 May 2024

Dear High Storrs Families,

Re: Vapes and Vaping

I write to you all to share our concerns about the growing number of incidents across our Trust schools (and all schools) linked to vaping, and in particular the substances that are bought and added to vapes.

I am sure you are aware it is illegal for anyone under 18 to purchase vapes and the long-term medical impact of vaping is not yet fully understood. There is a great deal of information on vaping from ASH here:

<https://ash.org.uk/resources/view/addressing-common-myths-about-vaping-putting-the-evidence-in-context>

However, in recent months there has been a growing and significant risk from the illegal supply of vape fluid laced with THC cannabis oil and synthetic Spice. These cannot be purchased legally and are produced and distributed by criminals. This is a national problem and there have been many reports of young people suffering significant and very serious medical problems when using these fluids. For example,

<https://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2023-10-27/children-collapsing-in-school-after-using-vapes-laced-with-spice>

When young people purchase and use THC or Spice vape oil they are being exploited by criminals, they are putting themselves at considerable medical risk and they are committing a criminal offence.

We have recently increased the number of vape detector alarms across the school and are installing further units over the coming weeks. If staff suspect any student is carrying or using vapes on school premises, then we may need to conduct a search following the procedures as outlined in our Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy and on page 18 in our behaviour policy - <https://highstorrs.co.uk/our-school/policies>

I would very much appreciate your support in reinforcing the messages about the use of illegal substances and vapes in general. If you do have any further information regarding this issue, then please do report it in to school or South Yorkshire Police using the 101 service.

If you are aware your child is vaping, then there are lots of resources you can use to discuss it with them and support them moving forward, for example:

<https://www.changegrowlive.org/the-corner-sheffield/info>

<https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/vapes>

<https://sheffield.yorkshiresmokefree.nhs.uk/>

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Bedford
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