



**Campion School**

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Headteacher: Jassa Panesar BSc, NPQH

21 November 2023

For the attention of the Parent/Carer

Dear Parent/Carer

**Electronic cigarettes/vapes**

We have recently been made aware of an increase in the number of incidents in our school community where children and young people are vaping, bringing vapes into school and consequently are receiving serious sanctions. Whilst the number of pupils bringing vapes into school is small, the trend is rising and we would like to reinforce with our families, the consequences of bringing vapes into school and also share with you some further information on vaping, so that you can talk about this with your child.

**What is vaping?**

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporiser (vape) or e-cigarette. The vapour can contain nicotine and other substances. There have also been reports in other Local Authority areas of children and young people experimenting with THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) vaping. THC is the psychoactive compound in cannabis and is illegal in the United Kingdom.

We are aware that there have been reports of young people becoming unwell and needing medical attention after using vapes. Vapes can come in a variety of different forms, shapes, and sizes. These devices are usually very small and can be concealed on a person or blend in with school equipment, therefore they can be easily mistaken or missed. Like cigarettes, shops and other retailers cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. This includes the sale of vaping equipment, including liquids and devices. It is also against the law to buy vapes on behalf of anyone under the age of 18. We are also aware that some young children are acquiring devices online or from older siblings, friends and other family members.

**What is the school doing about this?**

The rise in the use of vapes is not an issue specific to our school but unfortunately a much wider issue and we will continue to educate pupils regarding the dangers of vaping and the legality surrounding this. We all remind students of the Behaviour Management Policy, Suspensions and Exclusions Policy and the Drugs Management Policy. They are reminded that the most likely outcome of bringing a vape into school or vaping on school premises, is a fixed term suspension and the most likely outcome for bringing an illegal substance into school would be a permanent exclusion.

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### **What can parents do?**

- Know and understand the risks presented by electronic cigarettes and vapes. These risks are real, and they need to be understood particularly as the availability of these products has grown significantly in a short period of time
- Recognise that this is an issue within our local area
- Talk to your child openly about these risks to ensure that they are well informed and have clear guidance that these products are to be avoided
- Get in touch with your GP if you require medical guidance regarding your child
- Get in touch with us and let us know if you have concerns

### **What steps can I take if my child has used electronic cigarettes/vapes?**

We recognise that some young people may be using vapes as an alternative to smoking cigarettes. They may also have succumbed to peer pressure or simply be curious and want to try vaping. If you have concerns about this then please contact your GP or talk to the school. I have shared a link below to a document produced by Warwickshire County Council. This resource provides further advice on having conversations with your child about vaping and also shares some links that you might find useful.

<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1350011118-3253>

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that the Campion community is a safe community.

Yours sincerely



JASSA PANESAR  
Headteacher