



West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'

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Dear Parents/Carers

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 pupils 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 (the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) 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 pupils who:

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

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 sharing awareness raising material with pupils 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.

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.

Sincerely,



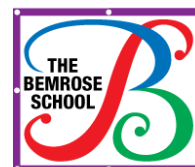
Gemma Penny
Headteacher
Allestree Woodlands School



Michelle Strong
Headteacher
Alvaston Moor Academy



Neil Wilkinson
Executive Headteacher
The Bemrose School



Phil Smith
Headteacher
Chellaston Academy



Adrian Harding
Headteacher
City of Derby Academy



CITY OF DERBY
ACADEMY

Ann Donaghy
Acting Headteacher
DaVinci Academy



Jenny Brown
Headteacher
Derby Cathedral School



Scott Doyle
Principal
Derby Moor Academy



DERBY MOOR
SPENCER ACADEMY

Gareth Allen
Executive Headteacher
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Mike Pride
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The Kingsmead School &
School
Newton's Walk



Alison Brannick
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Landau Forte College Derby



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Littlelover Community



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Lees Brook Academy

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Catholic Voluntary Academy

Laura Russell
Headteacher
St Clare's School



Royal School
for the Deaf Derby



Saint Benedict
A Catholic Voluntary Academy



St Clare's School
Where we reach our goals!

Sabrina Hobbs
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St Martin's School

Lee Kirkwood
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Michelle Robinson
Public Health Manager
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Derby City Council