



ALL SAINTS

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

ORARE LABORARE SERVIRE

24th November 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

All Saints Catholic college, like many other schools, has seen a recent spike in incidents involving children vaping. The purpose of this letter is to raise awareness of this issue as well as alert you to possible repercussions if your child engages in vaping whilst in school uniform. As a school we are concerned about the number of children who appear to be unaware of the potential dangers of using vaping devices which contain harmful chemicals, including nicotine.

What is it?

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapor produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. The vapor can contain nicotine and other substances which is concerning. The liquids that are vaporised 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 have names such as, pineapple ice, raspberry lemonade, strawberry and watermelon.

What do they look like?

Vaporizers/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 (similar to an Airpod case). The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack items. Like cigarettes, stores cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. However, pupils report that they are able to purchase devices online, from older siblings/friends and even local shops.

What is the impact of vaping?

Many vapes contain nicotine, which as well as being highly addictive can also harm brain development. Prof Andrew Bush, a consultant paediatric chest physician at Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals, was hard-hitting in his synopsis of the situation, stating that we as a nation are "sleepwalking into a public health catastrophe with a generation of children hooked on nicotine." This view is further supported by recent studies in the USA which show that regular use of e-cigarettes significantly increases a person's vulnerability to chronic lung diseases such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema. Pupils may not be aware of the harmful effects of vaping and this is something we are addressing through PSHE and assemblies.

Vaping is prohibited in the Code of conduct, and children who choose to vape whilst in school uniform will be suspended from school and this will go on their permanent school record. Vapes are banned items and the school reserves the right to search for such items if we suspect a child is in possession of one.

We hope you find this letter informative and that you fully support the school in trying to ensure that our students do not involve themselves with vapes. Our goal is to work in partnership with parents to help support our pupils in making positive decisions for themselves and their health. We encourage you to have a conversation with your child about this topic. As we learn more, we will certainly share that information.

Finally, below are some links that you might find useful with key information and support for parents.
Thank you for your continued support of our school system.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS ON VAPING:

[Quick facts on the risk of E-cigarettes](#)

[Tips for parents on E-cigarettes](#)

Yours faithfully



Miss C Dalton
Assistant Headteacher