



FORMBY HIGH SCHOOL

Determined to Achieve

KBL/AHR

November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may be aware there has been a rise in vaping across society, and particularly amongst young people. Our experience at Formby High School, like many schools, certainly reflects this pattern, although we do know that we are dealing with a minority of students in our school. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issue, confirm our policy around vaping and to provide some useful guidance to support your understanding of the associated risks.

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. Most vapes 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 a bank of emerging research which suggests the long-term effects of using vapes puts young people high risk.

Shops and other retailers cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. This includes the sale of vaping equipment liquids and devices. It is, therefore, clear that young people under the age of 18 should not be purchasing or be in possession of nicotine products such as vapes.

We have a duty of care to ensure the safety of all our students and vapes are prohibited in school. If any student is suspected of vaping or carrying a vape, we have legal powers to search their bag and outer layers of clothing in order to remove and confiscate this item.

We are not prepared to tolerate the risks associated with vaping or students breaching our behaviour policy because of it. We will take firm and decisive action if a student is found to have these items in their possession. **Students have been informed that, should they be found in possession of a vape, they may receive a one-day suspension from school. If a student is found to be vaping on the school site, they will receive a suspension of at least one day, and if caught selling vapes to other students then they may receive an even more serious sanction.** We would appreciate your support in clarifying our rules and expectations about vaping, and ensuring your child fully understands the consequences of choosing to do so.

We do recognise at a small number of students may have developed an addiction to nicotine, succumbed to peer pressure or may simply be curious and want to try vaping. If this is the case with your child, we would like you to guide you to the following websites which provide helpful information to support you at home when in talking about the associated dangers of vaping at home.

- Talk to Frank: <https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/vapes>
- NHS Chat Health: <https://chathealth.nhs.uk/>
- Child Mind Institute: <https://childmind.org/article/teen-vaping-what-you-need-to-know/>

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We will also continue our work in school to educate our students regarding the dangers of vaping, the legalities surrounding this and the consequences of being found in possession of vapes. Like many local schools we are also exploring the costs of fitting vape alarms in our toilet areas.

Should you have concerns you wish to discuss please contact a member of the pastoral team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs K Blanchard".

Mrs K Blanchard
Deputy Headteacher
Pastoral Care and Welfare