



16th June 2023

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 16/06/23

I hope this update finds you well. This week's update has a special focus on vapes and e-cigarettes.

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 students 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:

Sabrina Hobbs **Principal**

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- 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 students who:

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

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 delivering assemblies, lessons and sharing awareness raising material with students 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. We have provided an information leaflet for you that may help with this conversation.

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/>

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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
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City of Derby Academy

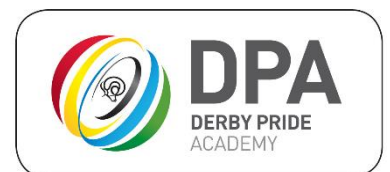
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Acting Headteacher
DaVinci Academy



Jenny Brown
Headteacher
Derby Cathedral School

Scott Doyle
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Derby Moor Academy

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DERBY MOOR
SPENCER ACADEMY
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Jon Wilding
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Royal School
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Saint Benedict
A Catholic Voluntary Academy



St Clare's School
Where we reach our goals!

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Term Dates for Academic Year 2022/2023

Summer Term

School Breaks up for Half Term - Friday 26th May

School Starts Back – Monday 5th June

INSET Day – Monday 26th June

School Breaks up for Summer – Friday 21st July

Term Dates for Academic Year 2023/2024

Autumn Term

INSET Day – Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September

School Starts for the new Academic Year – Wednesday 6th September

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 27th October

School Starts Back – Monday 6th November

School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 22nd December

Spring Term

School Starts Back – Monday 8th January 2024

School Breaks up for Half Term – Thursday 15th February

INSET Day – Friday 16th February

School Starts Back – Monday 26th February

School Breaks up for Easter – Thursday 28th March

Summer Term

INSET Day – Monday 15th April

School Starts Back – Tuesday 16th April

Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May

School Breaks up for Half Term - Friday 24th May

School Starts Back – Monday 3rd June

INSET Day – Monday 1st July

School Breaks up for Summer – Tuesday 23rd July

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