



HUNGERHILL LANE
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21 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Vaping

I am writing to bring your attention to the concerning rise in vaping among young people, including some students at Hungerhill School. Vaping refers to the act of inhaling vapor produced by electronic vaporizers or e-cigarettes. It is important to understand that the vapor may contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can have detrimental effects on adolescent brain development, including memory, concentration, learning, self-control, attention, and mood. Additionally, it may contain other harmful substances, such as cannabis oil, which is a classified drug. Given the limited information available about the long-term effects of vaping, it is strongly advised that young people avoid using these devices altogether.

Similar to cigarettes, the sale of vaping items, including liquids and devices, to individuals under the age of 18 is prohibited. Consequently, young people under 18 should neither purchase nor possess alternative nicotine products, such as vapes.

I want to reiterate that vapes and e-cigarettes are strictly prohibited on our Hungerhill School premises, just like tobacco and smoking paraphernalia. Ensuring the safety of all our students is our primary responsibility. In cases where a student is suspected of vaping or carrying a vape, we have the legal authority to conduct searches of bags and outer clothing to confiscate these items. If a student is found to be in possession of vapes, they will receive a fixed-term suspension. In situations where students are found hiding vapes in toilets, roof tiles, or behind walls, this may lead to a permanent exclusion. It is important to note that certain vape types are banned for sale in the UK, and possessing these types of vapes may result in a permanent exclusion. We are particularly concerned about hiding vapes in the toilets, as there have been incidents where they have spontaneously ignited, posing a risk to students and staff. If a student is found in possession of vapes containing cannabis oil, they will be permanently excluded in accordance with our behaviour policy. Please note that we will report possession of any illegal substances to the police.

While the sale of vaping products to individuals under 18 is illegal, some students have reported acquiring devices online or from older siblings, friends, and, unfortunately, in some instances, even parents/carers. I am sure you agree that the possession and use of vapes on the Hungerhill School premises is unacceptable. I acknowledge that a small number of students may have developed a nicotine addiction and view vaping as an alternative to smoking cigarettes. They may also succumb to peer pressure or simply be curious and want to try vaping. If this is the case, we recommend visiting the following websites for helpful information to assist you as parents/carers in addressing this important issue with your child/children:

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health): <https://ash.org.uk/resources/publications/fact-sheets>

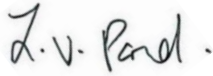
NHS (National Health Service): <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/quit-smoking/using-e-cigarettes-to-stop-smoking/>



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07939747), whose registered office is at Hungerhill School, Hungerhill Lane, Edenthorpe, Doncaster, DN3 2JY.

We hope that you understand the seriousness of this issue and appreciate our concerns regarding its potential harm and disruption. We strive to work in partnership with parents/carers to support our students in making positive decisions for themselves and their future. If you feel it necessary, we encourage you to have a conversation with your child/children about this topic. Rest assured, we will continue our efforts at Hungerhill School to educate our students about the dangers of vaping and its legal implications. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Together, we can address this challenge and promote the wellbeing of our students.

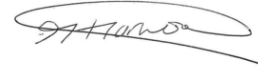
Yours sincerely



Mrs L Pond
Headteacher



Mr P Storey
Deputy Headteacher



Miss M Harwood
Deputy Headteacher



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