



Date: 21/08/2023

PUBLICATION OF NEW GUIDANCE FOR MANAGING VAPING IN SCHOOLS

Dear Headteachers, School Governors, and Designated Safeguarding Leads,

Vaping amongst children and young people is increasing nationally, and local intelligence and feedback suggests that use is also increasing in the Royal Borough. We understand local schools are experiencing challenges associated with this increased use, which is why we're writing to you to share some newly published guidance for schools and educational settings on how you might manage the use of vapes by young people.

E-cigarettes are a useful and effective tool supporting people to stop smoking. However, this comes with unique challenges for staff and organisations working with children and young people. Marketing is now tailored to encourage and entice younger generations to use vapes, particularly disposable vapes which are offered in a variety of colours and flavours.

While we know that e-cigarettes are less harmful than smoking cigarettes, we don't yet know their long-term effects. Both tobacco and many vapes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, and we should be discouraging anyone under 18 years old from taking up a nicotine or addictive substance habit. We endorse the advice from England's Chief Medical Officer: "If you smoke, vaping is much safer. If you don't smoke, don't vape."

To support you in managing the use of vapes, please find embedded below this new guidance, endorsed by the South East Association of Directors of Public Health. It includes information on:

- The role of educational settings
- Managing behaviour related to vapes and vaping
- Screening, searching, and confiscation
- Disposing of confiscated vapes and liquids
- Storage
- Following up on behaviours
- Working with local agencies and responding to safety incidents relating to vaping
- Incorporating vaping into a whole school approach
- Resources and training for staff
- Resources to support pupils, staff, families, and carers to quit smoking

Many thanks for taking the time to read this letter. We hope this guidance will be useful for you to implement change this coming academic year.



Managing Vaping in
Schools.pdf

Yours Sincerely,

Tessa Lindfield

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Executive Director Children Services and Education