



City of Norwich School

An Ormiston Academy | *Excellence in all*

January 2024

Dear Parent/Carers

As you are aware, trends and fashions amongst young people change regularly and can present new risks and dangers. There is currently an increase in the use of vapes and e-cigarettes amongst young people across the country and this is something we are keen to address at CNS.

Whilst vaping is marketed as a safer alternative to smoking, the short and long-term effects of vaping on children remain unclear and the key message is to avoid both smoking and vaping. Significantly it is illegal to sell vapes to anyone under 18 or for any adult to buy vapes for anyone under 18.

More worryingly, vapes containing THC oil are increasingly common. THC is a cannabis-based oil and can be extremely dangerous to children. These can be very hard to tell apart from ordinary vapes and are both illegal and dangerous - there are many stories of students being hospitalised after overdosing on THC vapes.

I would also like to raise your awareness of 'edibles' or cannabis gummies. These are sweets which are laced with THC, and which are easily available but can be extremely dangerous and are illegal.

All of the above are prohibited items at CNS but we are aware that issues in the community can sometimes find their way into school amongst a very small number of students. CNS is a safe and pleasant place to be, and we are determined to ensure that it remains that way. Our approach to this will be based on 3 main approaches - Education and support, deterrent and sanction.

Education and support:

- We will be addressing the risks of vaping through a series of assemblies and form time activities to highlight the potential effects and dangers involved.
- For students who may already have a vaping habit, we will work with them and signpost them to specialist support from external agencies to help them 'kick the habit.'
- We will have a poster campaign around school to highlight the dangers of vaping and to keep reinforcing the message.

Deterrent:

To discourage the possession of any prohibited items, we may use any of the following strategies:

- Use of vape detectors in toilets and other areas.
- Improvements to our CCTV coverage and greater use of CCTV.
- Increased staff patrols in toilet and other areas.
- Any student suspected of carrying a prohibited item may be subject to a bag / pocket / property search in line with Government guidelines.
- Occasional use of a passive detection dog on the school site.

Sanction

For students found to be vaping or in possession of prohibited items, we will make use of one or more of the following:

- The first step will always be an open and honest conversation.
- Confiscation and destruction of prohibited items
- A package of support and education
- Application of the full range and extent of our behaviour policy
- In extreme cases we may request police involvement

I must stress that there is not a significant issue here at CNS, but we are absolutely determined to keep it that way. I realise that the contents of this letter will not apply to the vast majority of our students but hope that it will give reassurance and confidence to you as parents that we are taking proactive steps to ensure that CNS remains a safe place to be.

If you are aware that your child has a habit that they would like to address, do please let us know and we can offer support.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Innes
Assistant Headteacher
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Examples of THC sweets



Useful links:

[Young people and vaping - Better Health - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

[Vapes | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](https://talktofrank.com)

[Cannabis edibles - always risky, sometimes dangerous | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](https://talktofrank.com)

Website: www.cns-school.org
Telephone: 01603 274000 (reception)
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Twitter: @cns_school
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CNSschool
Head: Ms Jo Philpott

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