



Campion School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Re: the illegal sale of nicotine e-cigarettes/vapes to children and young people aged under 18 – an appeal to schools and parents to report problem shops

We have recently received a letter from Warwickshire Trading Standards regarding the illegal sale of nicotine e-cigarettes/vapes to children and young people under 18. This is an important health and anti-social behaviour issue that is affecting young people and Warwickshire County Council are asking for the assistance of parents and schools to help tackle this problem.

Warwickshire Trading Standards is receiving increasing numbers of complaints about the illegal sale of nicotine e-cigarettes/vapes to children and young people under the age of 18. Children are reported to be buying these products from small shops/corner stores, often located close to schools. These children are as young as 12 years old.

They are appealing to schools and parents to be vigilant and report any shops they believe are illegally selling nicotine e-cigarettes or vapes to under 18s.

Schools and parents can report shops anonymously using Warwickshire Trading Standard's dedicated online reporting tool, visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/TzNzW8GH31>

All information received will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Trading Standards Officers have also been contacting local businesses to make them aware of the law and their responsibilities under it. Enforcement exercises to protect children and young people will be undertaken.

Whilst e-cigarettes are recognised as an important tool in reducing smoking rates, nicotine e-cigarettes are an age restricted product and must not be sold to under 18s (There is an exception for nicotine inhaling products that are licensed as medicines or medical devices. This exemption only applies to the extent to which the product is authorised).

Scientists are still learning about the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes. Nicotine can harm the developing adolescent brain, in particular the parts that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control. Using nicotine in adolescence may also increase risk for future addiction to other drugs. Some of the ingredients in e-cigarettes could be harmful to the lungs in the long-term. There may be as much nicotine in a disposable vape as in a cigarette. The trading of these products between school children may also have other safety implications for them.

There are a number of different types of e-cigarette product, but those that appear to be most popular amongst young people are the disposable vape type. These may look like highlighter pens and come in a variety of bright colours (see images below). If brought to school, they are easily hidden in pencil cases etc. Disposable vapes cost around £5 each, so are easily affordable for children.

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Warwickshire Trading Standards ask schools and parents to help identify the shops selling these products to under 18's so that they can take action against them.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Panesar".

JASSA PANESAR
Headteacher