



St Mary's RC Primary School and Nursery, a Voluntary Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Mary's we take safeguarding concerns very seriously and it is our duty to address issues that may be potentially harmful to our pupils. We appreciate the support we receive from our parents and carers, and hope we can work together to raise awareness of the following issue.

It has come to our attention that some older children have recently started bringing vapes into school, and we have been informed that there are a number of children who are using vapes outside of school when playing out with friends, sometimes much older teenagers. Some children are managing to buy the vapes from others, some are trying them and some children have found them whilst playing outside.

A vape is an e-cigarette containing a cartridge filled with a nicotine-based liquid substance, flavourings and chemicals. The liquid is heated up into a vapour, which is then inhaled.

The legal age in the UK to buy and use vapes is 18.

This is because vaping puts nicotine into the body, a highly addictive substance, and can affect brain development - including concentration, mood and attention.

We ask for your support in talking to your child about vaping, and being aware of their actions when playing out with friends. We are also talking to children in school about vaping and its effects, through class work and assemblies.

You may need to check your child's bag and coat for a vape. Children are **not allowed** to bring vapes into school. Bringing a vape into school will lead to a formal consequence, and this has now been explained to our older children in school.

Vaping, like smoking cigarettes, is banned from school premises, both in the building and walking through the grounds. We ask that as parents, you adhere to this rule as we tackle the issue explained in this letter.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Claire Mills

Headteacher