



Hallfold, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancashire OL12 8TS
Telephone: (01706) 343218, Email: office@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr A Oliver, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE, NPQH

5th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Vapes and E-cigarettes

You may remember that I wrote to you during the last academic year regarding my concerns about vapes and e-cigarettes, which are illegal for children. In that letter, I explained how essential it is that we work together to combat this problem. I am pleased to report that following that communication, we saw a significant decrease in students using or possessing vapes in school.

Despite the continuous efforts of school staff to educate students about the risks associated with vaping for children, there has been a spike in incidents this week. This includes students with previously unblemished behaviour records being caught with vaping devices. There have been five separate incidents in total, which is highly unusual for our school.

Furthermore, I am receiving regular reports of children in Whitworth and the surrounding areas gathering outside of school hours to use illegal and potentially dangerous loaded vapes. I urge all parents and carers to be exceptionally vigilant in the evenings and at weekends regarding where your children are and who they are meeting. The risks associated with unsupervised gatherings involving these devices are significant.

It is essential that we work together to address this problem. While I am fully committed to providing education about the dangers of vaping within the school environment, parental involvement is equally crucial. I kindly request your support in reinforcing my message regarding the illegality of vapes, their strict ban in school, and the potential health risks. It is imperative that you have open conversations with your children about these dangers and the unknown long-term consequences. Additionally, I encourage you to take an active role by periodically checking your child's belongings for any vaping-related items.

I understand the importance of trust and privacy; however, this issue directly affects the health and well-being of young people in our community. By working together, I believe we can ensure their safety and provide the necessary guidance to help them make informed choices.

Sanctions

Significant sanctions, such as internal exclusions, will be implemented for any student caught using or possessing vapes in school. Any student caught with loaded vapes will receive, at a minimum, a suspension. Furthermore, I will issue permanent exclusions for anyone found supplying vapes loaded with illegal drugs, such as THC or spice. The students have been fully warned about the firm stance I am taking on this matter and the reasons behind it.

Support

If you know your child has an addiction to vapes or any other substance and you require support or advice, please contact Mrs Ashworth at the school. She maintains strong links with external organisations dedicated to helping young people overcome addiction.



Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in addressing this serious matter. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the issues I have raised, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Oliver
Headteacher

