



14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sha'baan 1443

**Assalaamu Alaikum – 'Peace be upon you'**

Dear Parents/Carers,

**RE: Safeguarding our children against e-cigarettes and vaping**

I am writing to inform you about the issue of vaping; give you information if you feel your child is involved in this kind of behaviour and to alert you to possible repercussions if your child engages in vaping on school premises.

We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on our pupils and sometimes find that our parents are often not aware of the risks involved. Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporiser or e-cigarette. The vapour can contain nicotine and other substances which is concerning. The liquids that are vaporised come in many different flavours and might even smell fruity. For example, many of the flavours of these liquid concentrates, or 'vape juices', are sweet and even have names such as, cinnamon roll, marshmallow, grape, strawberry, bubble-gum, lemonade and cookies.

Vaporisers or e-cigarettes come in all different shapes and sizes. Some common styles we see look like a thick pen, a stylus for an iPad, a flash drive, or a small flask with a round chimney coming off the top. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack items. Like cigarettes, it is illegal for shops to sell vaping items to anyone under the age of 18. However, it has been known for devices to be purchased online or bought for them by older siblings, friends, or unfortunately even parents.

It is known that nicotine is addictive and can harm brain development, which continues until about age 25. We know that using nicotine may make it harder for school related tasks such as learning and concentration. Students may not be aware of the harmful effects of vaping.

Vaping devices are banned items. Having a banned item in school or on occasions where it can bring the school in to disrepute, usually results in a short period of suspension. Depending on circumstances such behaviours could also potentially lead to a permanent exclusion. Both of these sanctions can have a negative impact on your child's future.

We hope you find this letter informative and understand our concerns about this potentially harmful issue. We encourage you to have a conversation with your child about this topic. If you have any concerns, please do get in touch with your daughter's Head of Year.

Yours sincerely,

**Anand Patel  
(Principal)**

