

Helena Romanes School Safeguarding

Student resources and support



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Safeguarding news - Friday 8th March 2024

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE DANGERS OF VAPING

Data collected for ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) shows an increase in 11 to 17-year-olds experimenting with vaping: from 7.7% in 2022 to 11.6% in 2023. It's concerning that these age-restricted products are getting into the hands of under 18s as most contain nicotine, which can be detrimental to brain development and cause long-term addiction. Some schools have reported students having their focus in lessons affected by nicotine cravings; vaping in school toilets; and even trying vapes found in their local park. Raising awareness of the risks among young people could help to prevent these problems from escalating and reduce the number of young vapers.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NICOTINE ADDICTION

Since they were initially developed to help people stop smoking, the vast majority of vape liquids contain nicotine. Not only is this a highly addictive stimulant, but it can also have detrimental effects on brain development in the under-25s. Nicotine can decrease the ability to pay attention, weaken impulse control, affect mood and increase the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult.

WHAT IS VAPING?

Vapes contain a liquid (vape juice/e-liquid) that is heated by a battery and evaporates, creating a chemical vapour which the user inhales. They can be disposable (once the liquid or battery runs out, the vape is thrown away) or rechargeable (the user replaces the liquid and recharges the battery on demand). Most vape liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals.

LACK OF AWARENESS

A proportion of young people tend to view vapes as harmless, mainly because of the products' appearance and the perception (often strengthened on social media) that "vaping is cool" and on trend. In many instances, young people don't fully appreciate the concept of addiction: that is, they aren't adequately aware of the risk of becoming hooked on nicotine before trying a vape.

POTENTIAL TOXICITY

Many vape liquids have been found to contain 'heavy' metals such as lead, tin, nickel and (in some cases) mercury – all of which are toxic. These metals often take the form of tiny shards inside a device's liquid tank, which are then inhaled into the body. Some media reports have suggested these metals are particularly prevalent in illegally imported vapes which don't comply with UK regulations.

UNCLEAR LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

The liquids in vapes also contain solvents, which can create carcinogens at the point of evaporation. Vapes were only introduced into the UK in 2005 – and, because of the relatively short timeframe involved, there is insufficient medical evidence to assess the long-term harms that regular inhalation of these chemical fluids might have on the human body.

ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING

The packaging of many disposable vapes is very appealing to young people, frequently echoing the colours and flavours of the sweets or fizzy drinks they're used to buying. There's a relative lack of regulation around vape marketing, and vaping is often depicted positively on social media – which can lead young people to develop favourable views of vaping and overlook the possible harms.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

In the UK alone, around 5 million disposable vapes go to landfill every week. Due to such significant numbers of these products not being recycled, their components – a lithium battery and a chemical liquid – pose a toxic risk to the environment, the ecosystem and wildlife. Vapes are also predominantly made of plastic and metal; materials that, of course, do not naturally decompose.

WIDER HEALTH CONCERNS

Studies are already showing a link between vaping and oral health problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. This is because vaping reduces the amount of saliva in the mouth, while increasing bacteria – resulting in bad breath and a build-up of plaque. There are also concerns that, in some users, vaping could lead to the development of asthma, a persistent cough and breathing difficulties.

UNREGULATED VAPING PRODUCTS

The number of retailers willing to sell vapes to under-18s is a worry, as the chance of these products being unregulated (and therefore containing illegal chemicals and higher levels of nicotine) is high. A related concern is that the mechanisms inside unregulated products are unlikely to have been tested and safety checked – presenting a possible fire risk if the liquid and battery come into contact.

SCARCE INFORMATION

The lack of information about the ingredients and potentially harmful chemicals in a vape is troubling. Some vape fluids (unregulated in the UK) contain traces of nuts, which can cause an allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. To date, medical warnings aren't required on vape packaging – with only medical disclaimers being found on the websites of the various brands.

VAGUE INGREDIENTS LISTS

Early research has suggested that the chemicals used to produce some strawberry and banana flavour e-liquids can kill cells in the blood vessels and heart. These ingredients aren't identified on the packaging, instead falling under the umbrella term 'natural and artificial flavourings'. Such vague listings mean that consumers aren't aware of the liquid's content so can't identify potential risks.

Meet Our Expert

Run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Schools Service (commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council), Catch Your Breath is a school-based project aimed at young people. Its goal is to embed a proactive, coordinated approach among both primary and secondary schools in discouraging smoking and vaping behaviours.



Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-65809924>



nationalcollege.com



@thenatcollege



/thenationalcollege

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 28.09.2023

School Age Drop In

Your local **School Nurse and Healthy Family Support**

Practitioners support children and young people aged 5-19 (up to 25 for those with SEND) and their family.

They can offer you support within your school or in your family home, a local Family Hub or in a community venue.

What can they support with?

- Managing any worries
- Understanding emotions
- Low mood or anger issues
- Bullying and friendship issues
- School stress
- Improving sleep
- Personal hygiene
- Supporting around eating habits
- Sexual health
- Support with your medical conditions
- Advice around smoking, vaping, drugs, alcohol and gambling

Term Time only

Secondary School Drop In Helena Romanes

The school nurse will be holding fortnightly Drop-in Sessions from 27 February 2024 from 13:00 - 14:00

and then on:

- Tuesday 12 March 2024
- Tuesday 26 March 2024
- Tuesday 23 April 2024
- Tuesday 07 May 2024
- Tuesday 21 May 2024

Venue: Meeting room next to hall

Commissioned by

**Problems outside school?
Worried or Frightened?
Concerned about a friend?**

**ALL STAFF ARE
SAFEGUARDING TRAINED
AND THERE ARE
DESIGNATED STAFF IN
SCHOOL WHO CAN HELP
YOU...**

- You can also speak to:
- Form tutor
 - Head of Year
 - Pastoral Leaders
 - Class teacher
 - Student reception
 - Learning Support Assistants
 - Senior Leadership Team



Miss Brammer
**Deputy Safeguarding
Lead**
Her office is in E Block,
next to E103, or ask for
her in student reception
or e-mail
worrybox@hrs.education

Mr Emberton
**Assistant Head Teacher
Safeguarding Lead**
His office is in B Block
first floor, B100 or ask
for him in student
reception, or e-mail
worrybox@hrs.education

Who you can ask for help in school:

- Form tutor
- Head of Year
- Pastoral Leaders
- Class teacher
- Student reception
- Learning Support Assistants
- Senior Leadership Team
- Email worrybox@hrs.education
- Mr Emberton - Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Brammer - Deputy Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Pearson - Safeguarding officer

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Sources of support for students

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and need to speak to someone, please call one of the following numbers:

Essex Out of hours Crisis support - 0300 555 1201

Young Minds Crisis Messenger text service (free 24/7 crisis support) - TEXT YM 8528

Samaritans, call for free 24/7, 365 days a year - Call 116113

Childline - Call 0800 111 www.childline.org.uk

- The number won't appear on your phone bill.
- Or you can also visit www.childline.org.uk to speak to a counsellor online.
- ChildLine is a private and confidential service.
- Confidential means not telling anyone else what you've said.
- This means that whatever you say, stays between you and ChildLine.
- They would only need to tell someone else if:
 - You ask them to
 - They believe your life or someone else's life is in immediate danger
 - You are being hurt by someone in a position of trust who has access to other children like a teacher or police officer
- You tell them that you are seriously harming another young person

Police emergency - 999



I'm worried about exploitation

Looking after my mental health

I need some help

Staying safe online

Children in Care Council

I'm a young carer

<https://www.escb.co.uk/young-people/>

Other sources of support:

The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Children's and Adolescent's Mental Health Service (SET CAMHS) provides advice and support to children, young people and families who are in need of support with their emotional wellbeing or mental health difficulties.

The service covers Southend, Essex and Thurrock and is open to young people under the age of 18.

Any child or young person experiencing mental health difficulties as well as any parent, guardian or professional can access the service for help and guidance.

Call SET CAMHS: Freephone 0800 953 0222

Email: SET-CAMHS.referrals@nelft.nhs.uk

NSPCC helpline for potential victims of sexual abuse
- 0800 136 663

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2021/sexual-abuse-victims-schools-helpline/>



I have or think I might have an eating disorder

Suffering with an eating disorder and struggling to cope? Our range of services can help.

<https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/get-information-and-support/services/me/>

I'm caring for someone with an eating disorder

Struggling to know what to do or say? Feeling alone? We're here for support.

<https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/get-information-and-support/services/carers/>



Talk ED is a national, peer-led charity supporting anyone affected by

any eating disorder or eating distress. We will meet you wherever you are in your journey, with personalised support.

<https://www.talk-ed.org.uk/>

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Safeguarding & online safety for students

Social media safety advice:

- Keep your accounts **private**
- Don't accept friend requests from **people you don't know**
- **Think** about what you post
- Choose your **profile pic** carefully
- **Be careful** what you put in your bio
- Don't give out **personal information** such as where you live or what school you go to
- Be careful what information you give away about yourself in **pictures** you post
- Know how to control your **location settings**
- Don't use social media to **bully, harass or intimidate**
- Know how to **report issues** on the platform you are using

Ambition



Kindness



Respect



Resilience



Broad
Mindedness



Independence



Advice from year 12 & 13:

Don't add people you don't know

Block people

Be private

Report something if it's upsetting

Think before clicking on a link - it might be unsafe

Don't copy your friends, if you don't want to do something don't make your decision based on what others may think.

Don't download social media until you are old enough and feel like you can cope with it

Don't give out personal info to strangers

Ignore and block any hateful behaviour

Make sure you know your passwords and try to keep them different for different accounts. Also not easy to guess.

Don't post things you could regret in the future

Never use your real name, block people as soon as they make you feel uncomfortable

If you are messaging somebody about anything private, make sure that you know who they are



Internet matters -

www.internetmatters.org

Online issues such as:

- Fake news and misinformation
- Screentime
- Inappropriate content
- Cyberbullying
- Online reputation
- Online grooming
- Online pornography
- Self harm
- Radicalisation
- Privacy

Advice about setting and controls including:

- Smartphones
- Gaming platforms
- Social media privacy guides

Guides and resources:

- Digital privacy
- Digital resilience toolkit
- Social media guide
- Guide to apps
- Set up safe device checklist

**internet
matters.org**

CEOP



There is a button to **CEOP** on the school

website: <https://www.helena-romanes.essex.sch.uk/>

CEOP helps young people who are being sexually abused or are worried

that someone they've met is trying to abuse them. If you've met someone online, or face to face, and they are putting you under pressure to have sex, asking to share images or making you feel uncomfortable you should report to CEOP.

This might be someone:

- Making you have sex when you don't want to
- Chatting about sex online
- Asking you to meet up face to face if you've only met them online
- Asking you to do sexual things on camera
- Asking for sexual pictures of you
- Making you feel worried, anxious or unsafe

If this is happening to you, or you're worried that it might be, you can report this to CEOP

www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre



Nude image of you online?
We can help take it down.

Report Remove is to help young people under 18 in the UK to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet.

Having your nudes shared can feel scary, and it can leave you feeling worried or even ashamed. But it's not your fault.

It's against the law for anyone to share a sexual image or video of someone who's under 18, and we're working with the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and Yoti to help you remove any sexual image or video of you that's online.

Report Remove is safe, easy and free - all you need to do is follow these steps:

- choose your age range
- create a Childline account so we can send you updates on your report
- report your image or video to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)
- talk to a Childline counsellor if you want any extra support, or access support on the Childline website
- check your Childline locker a few days after your report to see if you need to add any more information and to see updates on your report
- report any issues with this process by sending an email from your Childline locker with the subject 'Report Remove' and as much

information about the problem as you can.

- Read more about how to report an image or video.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

To access the Report Remove facility on the childline website please use the link below:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/remove-nude-image-shared-online/>



Games, quizzes, films and advice to help you get the most out of the internet while staying safe online

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/young-people>

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Online safety advice -

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

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Key Stage 5

Safeguarding when learning to drive.

We are aware that from time to time, concerns are raised by older students and their parents in West Essex about inappropriate conduct of driving instructors. We have been given the following information to help to safeguard those accessing driving lessons:

<https://www.gov.uk/learn-to-drive-a-car>

<https://www.gov.uk/find-driving-schools-and-lessons> (all instructors on the list will have had a DBS check and passed all the qualification tests to become an instructor)

<https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-a-driving-instructor>

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**Young Minds Crisis Messenger - 24/7 free support via text.
Text YM to 85258.**

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>



**Information about local counselling and advice services -
www.youthaccess.org.uk**



**The Mix. Email support via online contact form. Free 1:1 webchat service available. Free short term counselling service available.
Phone 0808 808 4994. Open 4pm - 11pm 7 days a week.**

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>



Free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope.

<https://giveusashout.org/>



Online mental health and wellbeing community.

<https://www.kooth.com/>

Useful mental health Apps for students

SAM - Anxiety management

HeadSpace - Meditation & Sleep



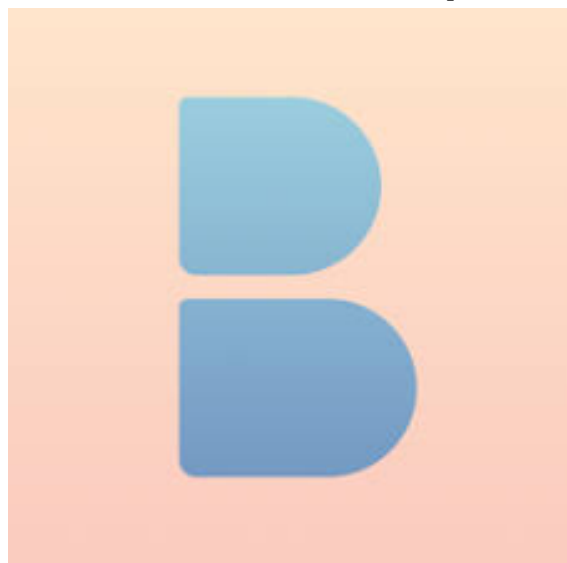
Calm harm - Calm Harm is a free app to help teenagers manage the urge to self-harm.



Clear Fear - learn to reduce the physical responses to threat as well as changing thoughts and behaviours and releasing emotions.



‘Breethe’ - Meditation/Anxiety



Stay Alive

The Stay Alive app, developed by Grassroots Suicide Prevention, is a suicide prevention resource for the UK, packed full of useful information and tools to help you stay safe in crisis. You can use it if you are having thoughts of suicide or if you are concerned about someone else who may be considering suicide.



#StayAlive

