Vaping Prevention Charter - District 14 Secondary Schools

Introduction

Vaping has emerged as a growing concern among young people, posing significant risks to their health and well-being. Studies have shown that vaping can lead to nicotine addiction, respiratory issues, and impaired brain development in adolescents. Additionally, the presence of unknown and illegal substances in some vape products poses further serious health risks. As educational institutions dedicated to the welfare of our students, we believe it is essential to take a strong and unified stance against this harmful trend.

Our Pledge

As a District of schools, we commit to working together to protect our students from the dangers of vaping. This charter outlines the proactive steps we will take to educate, prevent, and support young people in making informed and healthy choices.

Our Actions

1. **Education and Awareness**
    - Deliver age-appropriate education on the risks and consequences of vaping as part of our health and well-being curriculum, including Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, the assembly programme, and through pastoral support.
    - Provide resources and materials to students, parents, and staff to ensure everyone is informed about the dangers of vaping, including the risks of unknown and illegal substances in some vape products.
2. **Support for Students**
    - Establish clear and consistent school policies on vaping, with appropriate interventions for students found using or possessing vaping products.
    - Provide confidential support services for students who are struggling with nicotine addiction or who seek guidance about vaping.
3. **Parental Engagement**
    - Engage parents through information evenings, newsletters, and online resources to raise awareness and encourage open conversations about vaping at home.
4. **Staff Training**
    - Equip staff with the knowledge and skills to identify signs of vaping use and provide appropriate support or intervention.
5. **Environmental Measures to Prevent Vaping in School**
    - Install vaping sensors in identified hotspot areas within school premises.
    - Use electronic wands to detect vaping devices where necessary.

- Place clear signage in high-risk areas to reinforce the school's anti-vaping stance and deter vaping in these spaces.

6. **Community Collaboration**
    - Partner with local health organisations, youth services, law enforcement, and local councils to tackle vaping through joint initiatives and campaigns.
    - Work with national bodies to remain informed about emerging trends, resources, and best practices to reduce vaping among young people.

Our Call to Action

We ask all parents, carers, and members of our school community to join us in this commitment by:

- Discussing the risks of vaping openly with young people
- Encouraging positive peer relationships and healthy lifestyle choices
- Seeking support from medical professionals
- Reporting concerns about vaping products being sold to minors in our community

Signatories

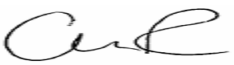
We, as representatives of our schools, affirm our commitment to this charter and to safeguarding the health and well-being of our young people.

Jo Griffiths (Headteacher)
Alder Grange School

Frankie Lord(Headteacher)
All Saints Roman Catholic High School

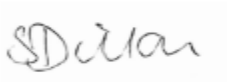
James Johnstone (Headteacher)
Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School

Russell Clarke (Headteacher)
Haslingden High School and Sixth Form



Chris Whittaker (Headteacher)
Oswaldtwistle School

Andrew Oliver (Headteacher)
Whitworth Community High School



S Dillon (Headteacher)
Tor View School

Lee Waring (Executive Principal)
The Valley Leadership Academy

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