

9th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vapes.

We must do all we can to discourage our children from taking part in any smoking-related activity. This includes cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vapes. This year, our PSHE and Science curriculum reflects the development from 'cigarettes' to the more modern variations of 'e-cigarettes' and 'vapes'. We work hard in can school to discourage young people from smoking or vaping in any form, by providing age-appropriate education to all our pupils about the potential dangers. Details can be seen here in our PSHE curriculum overview <https://www.westactonprimaryschool.org/curriculum/subjects/pshe>. However, as your child will be exposed to these dangers outside of school, through society and the media, we are sure that you will support us with this.

Children need to be aware that e-cigarettes and vapes are not toys. Whilst many children may recognise cigarettes, the large majority of our pupils do not know what e-cigarettes and vapes are: they can look like pens or gadgets. Therefore, children could be shown them and think that they are harmless or even worse, cool and safe to use. Nicotine based products are illegal to sell or provide to children under the age of 18. Nicotine during young adulthood has been associated with lasting cognitive and behavioural impairments including effects on working memory and attention.

When you warn your child about the dangers of smoking, as I am sure you all do, you may wish to include e-cigarettes and vapes in your discussion.

Bringing cigarettes, e-cigarettes or vapes onto school premises would be contrary to our behaviour policy. If a pupil is found to be in possession of or bring into school cigarettes, e- cigarettes or vapes it will be dealt with in line with the school's behaviour policy and exclusion policy.

Yours faithfully,

Karen Kondo
Headteacher

William Rollason
Chair of Governors