



Filey School

Dear Parent / Carer

Dangers of synthetic cannabinoids – known as THC & Spice

Many of you will remember receiving a letter from our Designated Safeguarding Leader in March of this year regarding the dangers of these drugs. I write to you again today to ask you to be increasingly vigilant at the current time.

Unfortunately, and as you will no doubt be aware from the news, synthetic cannabinoids such as THC and Spice are becoming increasingly prevalent and recently there has been a worrying increase in the number of cases, both locally and nationally, of young people collapsing and requiring urgent medical attention after vaping them.

THC, also known as 'liquid weed' or 'weed oil' is the main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis and the effects can be highly unpredictable and dangerous, especially when inhaled through vapes. Synthetic cannabinoids such as this are untested and unregulated and may contain other highly harmful substances. Associated side effects and health risks include breathing difficulties, chest pain, tachycardia, seizures, extreme anxiety, paranoia, psychosis, suicidal thoughts, gastrointestinal issues and even acute kidney problems.

THC and cannabis are Class B drugs which are illegal to possess, distribute or sell in the UK. Any student who brings THC or any other drugs into Filey school risks permanent exclusion as per our policy.

To help our young people keep themselves safe and make safe choices, an assembly has been delivered to all our students on the dangers of vaping, illegal vapes and THC and we will continue to remind students of these messages. As parents and carers, we urge you to be vigilant at home and in the local community and to reinforce these key messages with your child or children.

Finally, I would like to remind all parents and carers that vaping is strictly prohibited at Filey School, and any student caught vaping or in possession of smoking or vaping equipment will face sanctions and the items will be confiscated without return.

Should you wish to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to contact the DSL, Mrs Pickering or the Deputy DSL, Mrs Emmerson, on the school number or by email at A.Pickering@fi.coastandvale.academy or J.Emmerson@fi.coastandvale.academy

For further information regarding the dangers of illegal vapes and THC, please see the links below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-67349297>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-65614078>

<https://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2023-10-27/children-collapsing-in-school-after-using-vapes-laced-with-spice>

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/pupils-rushed-hospital-another-foamed-30089381>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-67081855>

Yours sincerely

Ms M Britton

Headteacher

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