

Vaping in Schools Taken from information shared with Schools by Dave Parvin



Q. What type of VAPES are the students bring into school..?

A. Nearly all but a few have been the 'disposable puff bars'.

Q. Where are the Students hiding their vapes..?

A. Some are blatantly carrying them in their pockets, rucksacks, bags etc...others are hiding them down their socks, pants and bra's (knowing fine well you can't search any intimate areas).

Others are 'stashing' them on site (toilets being one of favoured spots) others find stash areas in the school grounds or just outside.

Q. Would you say there is a particular problematic year group in respect of VAPING.

A. I think all year groups are accessing Vapes but certainly on the presentation in which VAPES have been handed in, I would say Years 8, 9 and 10 have handed the most in.

Q. What are the key areas to focus on when talking to the students about VAPING.

A. Three main areas really – the addictive properties of them (particularly if they contain nicotine).

The health implications - fact that all vapes produce clouds of smoke which when inhaled will deposit 'minute particles of oil on the 'lung linings' which can result in lung infections, breathing problems and can trigger cancers. (see next question)

And potential risks from 'Counterfeit/Fake Vapes'

Q. Is there any update information I can access regarding this.

A. Yes – a very good document is the '*NICOTINE vaping in England 2022 evidence update summary*' which can be found on the GOV.UK website. There is some conflicting evidence but what stood out for me is the dramatic increase in young people vaping and the number of hospital admissions due to vaping.

Also NHS Digital website which recently conducted a survey of over 10,000 students aged 11-15 years about (smoking, drinking, and Vaping). It shows about 9 percent are currently vaping regular the highest ever recorded since this particular survey started in 2014.

The whole landscape has changed in respect of VAPING, and in my opinion this is down to the introduction of the disposable 'puff bars'.

The 'Puff' bars that students are getting hold of typically can range from 500 puffs to 3500 but this is changing almost daily with bigger puff bars containing more nicotine appearing to be the general trend (see pics below) which is even more concerning given the high rate of addiction with these devices. And of course, the larger puff bars, the greater nicotine levels the greater addiction and greater risks to health.



Picture left shows one of the more recent puff bars to appear – **containing 5% nicotine** (rather than the typical 2% we have been used to seeing).

Q. Is there anything in the pipeline to address the VAPING issues.

A. Yes- the government (as I understand it) are already looking to address these issues and I understand that the following is being looked at:

1. More detailed information on the packaging in respect of the health issues (I suspect this will be similar to the graphic images we see on cigarette packets).
2. Tightening up of vendors selling vapes to underage children (you have to be aged 18 to purchase these)- Trading Standards will take the lead and are taking the lead on this.
3. Campaign to increase the awareness around the ‘addictive issues and health risks’
4. Market entry points for pricing of these devices (some are selling 3 for £10).
5. Tackling the many social media sites and platforms that promote these devices.
6. Clamping down on the ‘fake/counterfeit vapes’ (see images below)



Pic left: Counterfeit Vape on the right.

Main Dangers associated to Fake/Counterfeit Vapes are:

- The metal coil that is used to heat up the oil in the chamber is produced from a very cheap metal (produced in China) and heats up too quickly causing the Vape to either explode or split and spurt out ‘hot oil’ that can cause ‘facial injuries’) – see image below:
- There is also potential risks with the ‘lithium batteries’ in these devices.



Not sure exactly when the proposed changes will come into effect but the wheels are in motion.

Like many substances young people come into contact with they can be very naive as to the ‘risks and dangers’ and VAPING is no different.