



## Southerly Point Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust

Central Office, Helston Community College, Church Hill, Helston, Cornwall. TR13 8NR.

[www.southerlypoint.co](http://www.southerlypoint.co)

Companies House No. 10552443

21 March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Agreed statement on the issue of vaping in our schools**

As you may be aware, there has been a rise in vaping across society, particularly amongst young people. Our experience at both Helston Community College and Mullion School is certainly reflecting this pattern.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issue and confirm that **vapes are banned from our school premises**. We also want to alert you to the potential consequences should your child/children be found to be in possession or use of electronic cigarettes/vapes on our school premises.

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporiser (vape) or e-cigarette. The vapour may contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, affect memory, concentration, learning, self-control, attention, and mood. It may also contain other harmful substances besides nicotine. There is not much information yet on what the long-term effects of using vapes will be – so this means young people really should avoid them.

An additional serious consequence to the use of vapes in a public building is that the vapour produced by them is quite dense and can be detected by modern smoke detectors. It has been necessary on several occasions this year to evacuate school buildings due to fire alarms being set off by a student vaping in the toilets. This is a serious matter in terms of the health and safety of our school communities and the significant disruption to learning that results from an evacuation.

Like cigarettes, shops and other retailers cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. This includes the sale of vaping equipment, including liquids and devices. It is, therefore, clear that young people under the age of 18 should not be purchasing, or be in possession of, alternative nicotine products such as vapes. Whilst the sale of items as detailed above is illegal, students have reported to us that they are able to acquire devices online or from older siblings, friends and unfortunately in some instances even parents/carers.

I am sure that you will agree that the possession and use of vapes on school premises is something that we simply cannot tolerate and there needs to be significant consequences for anyone who is found to be in the possession of paraphernalia linked to vaping.

Sanctions related to vaping will, therefore, be added to our behaviour policies and include:

- Students found in possession of any prohibited items, including vapes, liquids and any related paraphernalia will have the items confiscated and disposed of and students will be internally excluded. Repeated behaviour will result in a fixed term exclusion.
- Students who are discovered vaping on site will receive a fixed term exclusion.



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- Students found to be in the vicinity of a triggered smoke detector and in possession of prohibited items will receive a fixed term exclusion.
- Students who bring vaping paraphernalia on site to pass on or sell to others will receive a fixed term exclusion.

We do, however, recognise that a small number of students may have developed an addiction to nicotine and may see the use of a vape as an alternative to smoking cigarettes. They may also have succumbed to peer pressure or simply be curious and want to try vaping. If this is the case, we would like to guide you to the following websites, which provide helpful information to support you as parents/carers in raising this important issue with your child/children:

[Fact Sheets - Action on Smoking and Health \(ash.org.uk\)](http://ash.org.uk)

[Vaping: What You Need to Know \(for Parents\) - Nemours KidsHealth](http://NemoursKidsHealth)

[Smoking, E-Cigs and Vaping \(justonenorfolk.nhs.uk\)](http://justonenorfolk.nhs.uk)

We hope that you welcome this letter in the spirit with which it is intended and that you share and understand our concerns about this potentially harmful and disruptive issue. We always aim to work in partnership with parents/carers to help support our students in making positive decisions for themselves and their future. We encourage you to have a conversation with your child/children about this topic.

Naturally, we will also continue our work in our schools to educate students regarding the dangers of vaping and the legality surrounding this.

May we thank you in advance for your support in this matter and ask that we work together to ensure that our young people are protected.

Yours faithfully

**Mr W N Jenkins**  
Headteacher  
Helston Community College



Helston  
Community  
College

**Mr W Randle**  
Headteacher  
Mullion School



**MULLION  
SCHOOL**