

PENKRIDGE BANK ROAD
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**THE HART
SCHOOL**
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RSA/SHN

20 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

URGENT SAFETY NOTICE – Possible Contaminated Vapes in the Stafford Area

We have been contacted by Staffordshire Local Authority about a serious concern involving dangerous vapes being sold to young people in the Stafford area.

These vapes look like normal disposable ones, with no labels or stickers, and are believed to be shared and sold between children, including before and after school.

There have already been reports of young people becoming very unwell after using them, with one hospitalised and another found “completely out of it and not coherent.” The vapes have not yet been tested but may contain harmful or unknown substances.

Please read the below leaflet from the Local Authority for further information and advice.

School Policy Reminder

Bringing vapes, alcohol, drugs, or weapons into school, or being involved in sharing or selling them, is treated very seriously. These are “**red line behaviours**” and can lead to serious consequences, including permanent exclusion.

You can read our full Positive Behaviour Policy [here](#).

Please speak with your child about the [risks of vaping](#) and the importance of staying safe. If you have any concerns or information that could help, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Miss R Sandham
Principal



and Staffordshire Local Drug Information System

DRUG ALERT

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE ABOUT

Possible Contaminated Vapes

A report has been provided to us over a concern regarding 'fake' vapes being sold in the Stafford area to children. The vapes appear the same as disposable ones with no markings or stickers etc. on them.

A 15-year-old male was described to have been found "completely out of it and not coherent" in his bedroom following use of the vape. Another individual tried the vape and ended up being transported to hospital via ambulance. There has not been any forensic testing on the vape yet. There is concern that something else is mixed within the vape. These vapes are being bought and sold by children within school, before and after.

THE RISKS:

- Easy to want more and take larger doses.
- Worsened mental health.
- Psychotic episodes can be triggered, usually in those already susceptible, and last for weeks.



The only way to avoid all the risks is to not take drugs which are not prescribed for you.

Harm Reduction Advice:

- **Go low and slow:** Start with a small amount and wait at least two hours before your next dose to help reduce the risk of overdose
- **Avoid mixing drugs:** Using more than one drug increases your risks of overdose, including mixing with alcohol.
- **Stay hydrated:** Drink small sips of non-alcoholic drinks (e.g. water or isotonic drinks) but don't exceed 1 pint in 1 hours.
- **Specific conditions can increase your risks of a bad reaction:** If you have high blood pressure, heart disease, epilepsy, and if you have psychiatric problems like depression and anxiety you should avoid taking stimulants.

If you are worried about yourself or somebody else who has taken this substance please ring 999.

If you would like further support and information for yourself or somebody else, please seek support from [Stoke-on-Trent Community Drug & Alcohol Service - Home](#) or [Staffordshire Connects | STaRS \(Staffordshire Treatment and Recovery System\)](#)

If you receive any further reports regarding adverse effects following taking a substance, please report them to drugalcoholincidences@stoke.gov.uk