

# TIBSHELF COMMUNITY SCHOOL



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Dear Parents & Carers

I am writing to inform you of an issue that poses a very significant threat to our school community and to some of our students at this time.

We have received information regarding substance misuse within our community. There is a very real danger that this activity could lead to tragic consequences for some families.

We have been made aware that there are individuals within our community and beyond who are supplying and/or using illegal and/or dangerous e-liquids to be used in e-cigarettes through vaping. The e-liquids that are being produced are using possible recreational drugs and mixing them with various other liquids to form very dangerous products. Unfortunately, lots of the experiences that are happening in our community are being filmed and shared on social media, this appears not to be acting as a deterrent but rather as a sales advertisement!

I am writing to you to urge you to be particularly vigilant around your child and the use of e-cigarettes. We are aware that these potent mixtures are readily available to your child from within the community, the ingredients are unknown and the side effects can be fatal.

We are working with the police and other services, including Children's Social Care, in order to keep our young people safe, not just from their own actions but also from the predatory individuals who seek to gain from the circulation and supply of these e-liquids. Any information we have is, and will continue to be, passed on to the appropriate services to ensure support, intervention and sanctions are put in place for any of our pupils involved.

We will also ensure that any information we receive is treated in the strictest confidence in relation to the school community; at this stage we are working very closely with the police who are acting as the lead agency in this matter and we are bound to ensure that we do not hamper their work by sharing detailed information of what we know.

I have attached a copy of our school Drugs Policy and some NHS Guidance on how to talk to your child about drugs, for your information. You will see that whilst we wish to work with families and individuals implicated in substance misuse we are also very clear as to the potential consequences for any individual supplying or using on site.



I would suggest that you complete your own search for information relating to e-liquids and the use of e-cigarettes in order to fully ensure that you are aware of how to keep your child safe and if in any doubt contact medical professional/emergency services immediately.

You will know from working with us that we would not wish to alarm anyone unnecessarily, however, we are extremely concerned at what we have investigated and cannot, nor will not, take the risk that you are not fully informed.

There is no question that this is an issue which is impacting on schools nationally as this problem is a national issue, our strength lies in recognising that it can happen to us, it is happening to us, however, we have policies and procedures in place to respond and exceptional relationships with the Police and Social Care.

There is nothing to be gained and much to lose, including our precious children, by any school denying or failing to be as informed and to inform as widely as possible.

If you feel that you have any information that you wish to share please do not hesitate to contact the police via 101 or 999 as appropriate. In addition you may wish to contact me at: [a.ball@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:a.ball@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk) but please remember that the immediate safety of our young people is of paramount importance and school is not an emergency service so use the police in the first instance.

I would urge you as strongly as I can to discuss this information with your child(ren) in order that they are fully aware of the situation. Young people don't always make the right choices as a result of their age and experience and we must work together if we are to keep our young people safe.

With many thanks for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely



**Mr A Ball**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

Enc. Drugs Policy – Tibshelf Community School  
NHS Guidance – How To Talk To Your Child About Drugs

