



Building Inspiring Caring

CIRCULAR 2017 TL078

To: Parents/Guardians of all enrolled students

Cc: Bursar

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E Cigarettes

As reported in the national newspapers and among local schools we have also noticed an increasing number of e-cigarettes or associated items being brought into school by students. It is very concerning that nicotine based products, that are illegal to sell to children under the age of eighteen are on school premises.

Students need to be aware that e-cigarettes are devices that allow users to inhale vapour containing nicotine and other chemicals which may have a detrimental effect on their health.

DENI Circular 2015/14 states:

(i) nicotine is very addictive and, through e-cigarettes, has the potential to act as a gateway into tobacco smoking;

(ii) there is evidence to suggest that adolescent exposure to nicotine may also have long-term consequences for brain development;

(iii) the availability and promotion of e-cigarettes is reversing progress made by smokefree legislation to denormalise smoking; and

(iv) there is insufficient evidence to determine whether the vapour produced by e-cigarettes causes damage to users' health in the long-term. The same applies to the impact of secondhand vapour exhaled by the user.

Following advice from DENI and CCEA the use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes has been included in our Drugs Policy which states that drugs include:

alcohol, tobacco and tobacco related products including nicotine replacement therapy and electronic cigarettes

It also states:

Blackwater Integrated College does not tolerate the provision or use of illegal substances and any use of such a substance will result in the most serious consequences for those involved.

Any student found using or in possession of cigarettes or e-cigarettes will be placed in a two hour after school detention. Repeated offences relating to cigarettes or e-cigarettes could result in a student being suspended from school.

Please discuss this matter with your child and highlight the not only the sanctions resulting from smoking cigarettes or e-cigarettes but also the negative effects smoking has on their health and the health of others.

Stephen Taylor
Principal