



December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Safeguarding information

We are writing to you today to share some worries we have regarding the reports of rising numbers of young people who are using the tobacco product oral snuff, also known as snus.

This product is a tobacco product. It comes in the form of a small sachet and contains ground tobacco and various flavourings. The sachets are placed in the mouth, between the gum and the lip. The purpose of the product is to deliver nicotine into the body without smoking a tobacco or electronic cigarette. The nicotine is soaked through the skin and into the blood stream.

Snus was branded carcinogenic by the World Health Organisation and was banned in the UK in 1992 under the Tobacco for Oral use (Safety) regulations. As such, the buying or selling of snus is illegal. It is important to note that whilst similar, snus is **not** the same as a nicotine patch or pouch. They are two different products. Snus contains both nicotine and tobacco, nicotine patches do not.

So, what is the difference? Nicotine is a chemical compound found in tobacco plants, and it is the primary addictive substance in cigarettes and other tobacco products. Tobacco refers to the plant itself. While nicotine is the addictive component responsible for the pleasurable effects and cravings associated with tobacco use, tobacco contains many other harmful substances, such as tar and carbon monoxide, which are responsible for the detrimental health effects of smoking.

Over the past few years, there has been media coverage regarding professional footballers using both nicotine patches and snus in order to increase alertness and performance. This, along with the usual reports and trends on social media, have led to an increase in young people purchasing snus online. It is, unfortunately, widely available to order via various websites. Again, snus is different to nicotine patches or pouches which are also widely available to purchase.

Some of the immediate effects of high concentrated levels of nicotine which are found in snuff and some nicotine patches are increased blood pressure, feeling dizzy and feeling nauseated.

As with all matters regarding drugs education, we want our students to have the correct knowledge available to them. It is against the law for an under 18-year-old to smoke cigarettes, including vapes. Buying or selling snus is also illegal. Whilst it is legal for children under the age of 18 to buy nicotine patches or pouches, all such items - cigarettes, vapes of any kind, snus pouches and nicotine patches are prohibited as outlined in our drugs policy.

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We would ask that you discuss the contents of this letter with your child/ren, reminding them that if they have any worries or concerns, to reach out to their tutor or Year Leader team.

Yours sincerely

Helen Loveday
Deputy Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead