



CESSNOCK HIGH SCHOOL

We are present, we are kind and we give our best.

Principal
Mr Peter Riley

EST. 1937
What e'er you do, do well

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Cessnock High School, along with many other High Schools across the state, is experiencing an increase in incidents involving “vaping” and “e-Cigarettes”. Often referred to as ‘Vapes’ or ‘stigs’, these battery operated devices are designed to heat liquids to produce a vapour that looks like smoke. Vapes can be disposable or refillable and range from \$5 to \$100 depending on the size, quality and functions of the device.

The liquid used within Vapes contain chemicals which are marketed to sound appealing particularly to young people. ‘Flavours’ available are sold under attractive names such as watermelon or fairy floss etc. Some Vapes contain nicotine or can be used for other substances. Many Vapes are brightly coloured and can be as small as a usb.

Are Vapes Illegal?

Under the NSW Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008, selling any E-Cigarette or E-Cigarette accessories to children under 18 years of age is illegal in NSW, regardless of whether the device or other items contain nicotine or not. E-Cigarettes are readily available online where age declarations can be avoided or falsified.

What are the consequences regarding Vapes at CHS?

Vapes and any type of E-Cigarette or E-Cigarette paraphernalia, is prohibited at CHS. As they are illegal for individuals under 18 years of age, students who are in possession, have used, purchased or sold E-Cigarettes or associated items may receive consequences from the DoE Suspension and Expulsion Policy including Formal Cautions and Suspensions. Due to the health risks associated with Vapes (as documented below) bystanders may also receive a consequence particularly when they are knowingly in the company of individual/s using e-cigarettes. All Vapes and E-Cigarettes will be confiscated.

What Health Risks are associated with E-Cigarettes?

According to NSW Health, E-Cigarettes may expose users and bystanders to chemicals and toxins such as propylene glycol, glycerol or ethylene glycol that have adverse health effects and may increase the risk of developing cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory diseases. E-Cigarettes may contain high levels of nicotine, which may cause poisoning if swallowed. E-Cigarettes that claim not to contain nicotine are still considered dangerous and may cause negative long-lasting health outcomes for young people. The Australian Chief Medical officer and all states and territory health officers have issued a statement on the emerging link between E-Cigarettes and severe lung disease.

Where can I get more information and support?

If you are concerned about your child’s Vape use or you have questions about the school process please contact the Deputy Principals, Year Adviser or HT Wellbeing. For more information please visit: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/e-cigarette-young-people.aspx>