

# Brunel School's Safeguarding Newsletter

March 2024

## Welcome to our first edition of the Safeguarding Newsletter from Brunel School's Safeguarding Team.

Our aim is to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues that we feel will be of importance to you. In this term's newsletter, we highlight the worrying rise in youth vaping that is taking a grip in the UK, share information and signpost support regarding online safety and raise the importance of school attendance.

### YOUTH VAPING - THE RISING TREND

Vaping appears to be everywhere nowadays. It seems you can't walk anywhere without seeing colourful advertising or catching a sickly-sweet smell in the air. While vapes (e-cigarettes) are meant to be used as a 'quit-tool' for smokers rather than a new method for non-smokers, one trend has been slowly on the rise in the last few years – youth vaping.

Ineqe have received reports across their Safer Schools community that children as young as 8 years old have been found vaping at schools across the UK. It also follows concerns from healthcare officials that youth vaping is gradually on the rise in the UK, despite selling vapes to under 18s is illegal. Online safety experts have taken a more in depth look at youth vaping and you can find more information on the potential risks and helpful tips that will help you to better understand the issue and how it might impact the young people in your care.

#### Vaping Fast Facts

- Vapes come in many shapes and sizes. Some might look like everyday items such as pens or flash drives or even hoody drawstrings!
- These 'e-cigarettes' use a heated metal coil within a covering to create inhalable vapour from a liquid form of nicotine called 'e-liquid'.
- E-liquid ('e-juice' or 'vape juice') is a formula composed of nicotine and other chemical ingredients.
- The UK government has recently called for evidence into youth vaping.



#### Red flags

Vaping can be a lot more discrete than smoking, and may be happening without a parent, carer, or teacher noticing it. There are various signs to be aware of with youth vaping, such as:

- An unexplained cough, wheeze, or shortness of breath.
- Empty disposable vapes, plastic cartridges, containers, or bottles.
- Irritable behaviour if unable to go outside or have a break.
- Sudden mood swings, frustrations, paranoia, or anxiety.
- Lingering scents that are fruity or sweet smelling.

## Online safety

Children and young people spend a lot of time online and may face risks such as cyberbullying or being exposed to inappropriate content.

Whether you're unsure about what happens online or are familiar with new technology, it's important that you talk to your child about staying safe. It may feel daunting, but you don't need to be an expert on the internet. Understanding what children do online and the risks they face will help you keep your child safe online.

You can also visit the [NSPCC website](#) for help and guidance on online safety or you will find advice on [ThinkUKnow](#) and [Child Net](#).

The NSPCC has launched a new campaign called [Share Aware](#), offering advice and information for parents and carers who are worried about their children's use of the internet and social networks.



**Brunel**  
School



The internet can be fun and a great way to chat, share files and listen to music.

But remember to ***be smart and stay safe!***

Keep personal info like mobile number and address to yourself.

Not all people you meet online are real or honest.

If you publish a pic or video **ANYONE** can change or share it.

Remember you can block people you don't know in chat and Instant Messenger.

If you find anything that makes you uncomfortable online, tell an adult you trust like a parent or teacher.



For more information visit:  
[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

## **“Attendance is everyone’s responsibility”**

Brunel School is committed to raising standards and achievement in all aspects of your child’s education and wellbeing.

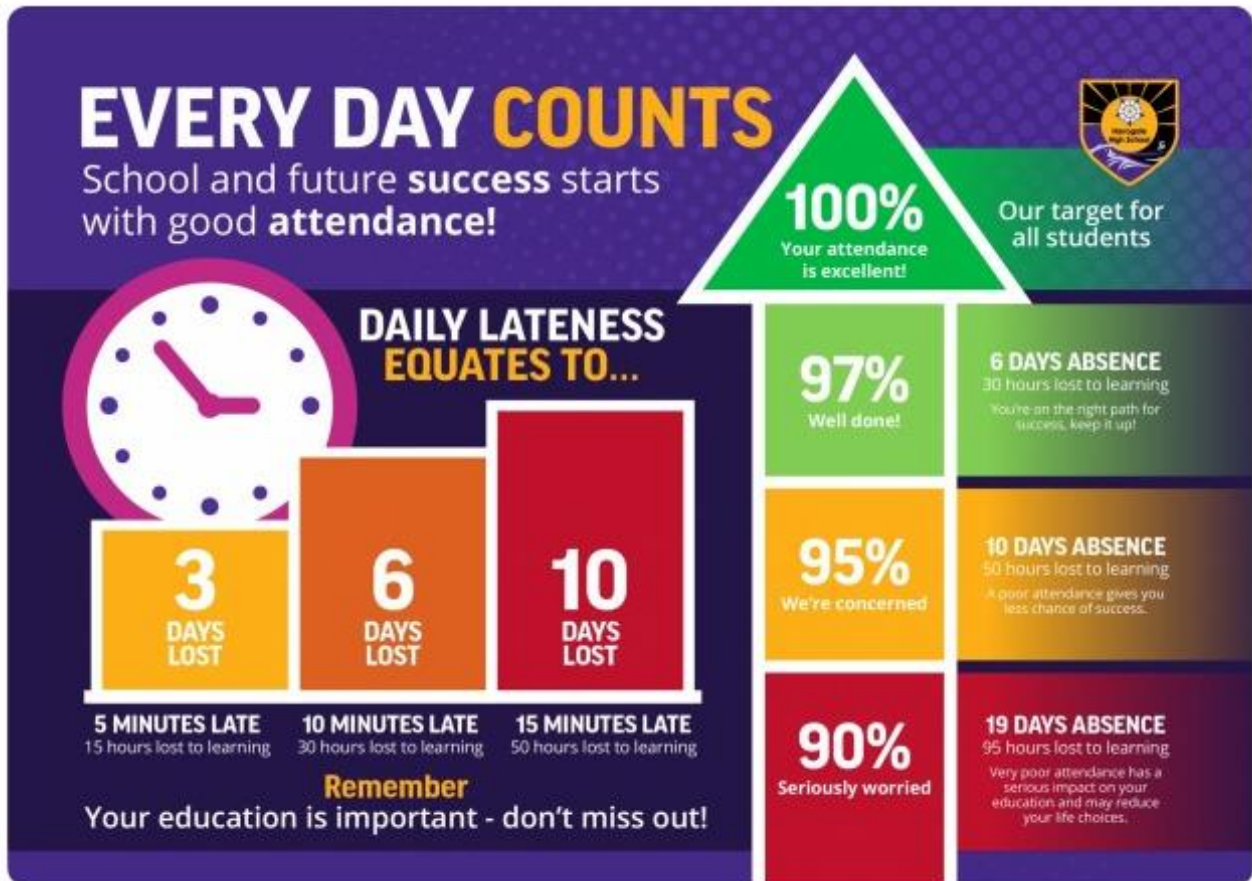
We recognise that high levels of child attendance is closely linked to academic success. As a result, we set a minimum target of 95% attendance for all of our pupils.

Even one or two days of absence a month can impact on how well pupils make progress socially and academically.

If there are any circumstances that the school may not be aware of which is having an impact on your child attending school regularly, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Our school's Attendance Lead is Emily Johnston, and she would be happy to discuss your concerns or questions to help support you and your child. Together we can make a difference!

Please also view Brunel School's Attendance Policy on our school website for further information - [Brunel School - Home](#)







**Emily Johnston**  
Designated Safeguarding  
Lead (DSL)



**Ryan Distin**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)



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Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

## You can talk to us!



You can contact us by email:  
[safeguarding@brunelschool.org](mailto:safeguarding@brunelschool.org)



You can contact us by phone:  
07501905053

If you think someone is at immediate risk of harm, you should contact 999.



