



## Vaping Amongst children

*The supply of disposable vapes has exploded in the last 18 months which includes non-compliant versions being sold in shops within our local area. The child appealing design of the packaging and the fruity flavours have made vaping more appealing to children and we are hearing more and more of primary age children using these both inside and outside of school. What is more, the knock on effect of the popularity of vaping amongst children is that perpetrators of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse are giving vapes to individuals as part of their grooming tactics.*

*If you know of any local businesses selling vapes to underage children, please report this to the police so that this can be shared with the regional intelligence unit.*



## Minimum age limits for popular apps

**Facebook (minimum age 13)** – lets users create their own profiles, share status updates, pictures, videos and chat with other users and also has a messenger app.

**Instagram (minimum age 13)** – allows users to alter photos, upload them and share to other social networking sites. Photos and videos can be sent directly to specific users.

**Snapchat (minimum age 13)** – a photo-sharing app where users can send photos or videos to their friends. These will display on screen for up to ten seconds before being deleted, although it is possible to take screenshots of messages and download other apps designed to capture and save Snapchat content.

**TikTok (minimum age 13)** – TikTok users can make their own short videos on the mobile app and often like to have music accompany these. The users have creative control over the videos. Other TikTok users can ‘react’ to videos they see by filming their responses alongside the original video, or ‘duet’ by making a video alongside another video.

**Twitter (minimum age 13)** – a social network that lets users send and read ‘Tweets’: messages limited to 280 characters.

**Tumblr (minimum age 16)** – a social networking site where users can post blogs and follow other people’s blogs. Some of the content on this site includes sexual/pornographic images.

**WhatsApp (minimum age 16)** – a free-of-charge, real-time messaging service. Users can share images/videos, take part in ‘group chats’ and share locations. As it’s based on knowing the user’s phone number, you can only message users if you already have this information.

**YouTube (minimum age 16)** – allows users to watch, create and comment on videos. The dislike button can create insecurities with content posted even if comments are turned off.

### *Are your contact details up to date?*

*It is vitally important that if you change your home phone/mobile number/email/ address/names of contacts, that you immediately let the school know, so that we have the most up-to date contact details and know of pick up and drop off details for all pupils.*



*Thank you!*



*‘Following Christ we reach our goals’*