

Safeguarding Snapshot – 10.11.23

This week's safeguarding update has been brought to us via The Metropolitan Police. The legislation around Nitrous Oxide changes on the 8th November 2023.

NITROUS OXIDE BAN

What is Nitrous Oxide?

It is a colourless gas sold in canisters, usually inhaled using a balloon. It may also be known as Balloons, Chargers, Hippie Crack, Laughing Gas, Nos, Noz and Whippits.

What changes to the law have been made?

It is already illegal to produce, supply, import or export nitrous oxide.

The law has been updated to also make possession of nitrous oxide illegal, making it a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

It will be a criminal offence to be found in possession of the drug where its intended use is to be inhaled for psychoactive effects, or 'to get high'.

Those found in unlawful possession will face either an unlimited fine, a visible community punishment, or a caution - which would appear on their criminal record - and for repeat serious offenders, a prison sentence of up to two years.

Why have we made these changes?

We have been growing increasingly concerned about misuse of nitrous oxide and its impacts.

Heavy nitrous oxide use can result in serious health harms such as neurological damage and even death due to the risk of falling unconscious and/or suffocating from the lack of oxygen.

Associated ASB causes wider harm felt by communities and to the environment. This includes gatherings to abuse the drug in public spaces, such as children's parks or high streets, and littering of the discarded canisters.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact your child's form tutor, year leader or a member of the safeguarding team via office@vynersschool.org.uk