

23 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: TOILET USAGE AND STUDENT WELLBEING**

I am writing to you once again regarding the toilet usage in school, this time with some updates regarding student safety and wellbeing in the toilet area, from a purely safeguarding perspective.

You are probably already aware of the national issue with toilets in some schools, and most schools are suffering with the rising issue of vaping. We are not exempt. Within toilets we have a small group of students who vape, and a small group of our older students who for one reason or another, gather in the toilets. These students are not immediately spotted as doors are closed on entry to toilets. There have been instances of graffitiing, and in some cases vandalising the facilities. A small group of students also use the toilets to truant lessons and hide in cubicles with friends for extended periods on their phones.

As we have communicated before, this is a small number, but a number that can affect other students using and feeling safe within the facilities, especially our younger students. We will not tolerate this behaviour.

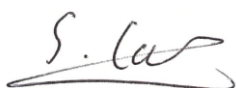
We also understand that for some of our younger students may feel more comfortable using the toilets during lessons when it is not as busy, and so I do not want negative role models in the toilets acting in the way I have described above.

As such, and after consultation, I have taken the decision today to remove the outer toilet doors and mirrors within toilets. This way, students cannot gather in the toilet area outside of cubicles without been spotted and asked to move straight onto lessons. Cubicle doors are visible only, and all locks to these doors will be regularly checked and monitored. This decision has been made from a safeguarding perspective to ensure students do not vape or gather in numbers, and that all students are safe from bullying within the toilet area, as we can now monitor more easily. It is also taken from a wellbeing perspective, ensuring our younger students feel happy to use the toilets without the fear of older students congregating.

We want to minimise the number of students out of lessons who genuinely do not need to be, and allow students with medical needs, and other students who need to use the facilities at specific times to access the facilities when needed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



**Sean Castle**  
**PRINCIPAL**