



Acorn Park School use of Aerosol Sprays

Protocol

Many children and staff suffer from allergies and asthma, which can be triggered by the involuntary inhaling of fumes from aerosol cans. This risk is combined with the possibility for young people to be 'tempted' to deliberately inhale vapour from aerosol cans, known colloquially as 'sniffing'. For these reasons, we are an aerosol free school.

'Aerosols are a type of irritant that can cause inflammation in the airways and lungs. The small particles in the spray can penetrate the air and irritate the airways, especially when the spray is used in close proximity to the mouth and nose.'

<https://www.coastalallergyasthma.com/asthma-overview/asthma-triggers/irritant-induced-asthma/asthma-aerosol/>

Many people are unaware that many of such products, although legal and 'safe' are in fact, volatile substances when sprayed and particularly so, when inhaled. There is no predictable way to avoid risk.

Volatile substance abuse known as VSA is when these substances are deliberately inhaled through the nose or mouth to achieve a change in mental state or 'high'. The most commonly misused products are butane gas from cigarette lighter refills, aerosols (such as deodorant or hair spray, petrol and some glues). Students at Acorn Park School are, like all children, vulnerable to possible exposure to these acts and therefore, possible temptation to experiment.

'When used for the intended purposes, aerosols are safe. However, when misused aerosols can kill. In the last decade on record there were 76 deaths attributed to the abuse of aerosols and 48 of these deaths were in young people under the age of 18.'

www.re-solv.org

We hope you understand the clear rationale regarding the prohibiting of aerosol cans on our site and will support this protocol. We appreciate many of our young people like to carry and use deodorant throughout the day; we will continue to support this. However, we ask that only 'solid stick' or 'roll-on' deodorant be brought into school.

Thank you for your cooperation to ensure that all at Acorn Park remain healthy and safe.