

Monday 4th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you are all aware that Covid-19 vaccinations are being made available to all students between the ages of 12 and 15 years. This is a national program and the Stanway school has now been issued with the date when the School-Age immunisation Service (SAIS) team will visit the school.

Students in Year 7 who are not yet 12 will not be offered the vaccination. Students who have turned 16 (in Year 11) will also not be offered the vaccination in school as they are able to receive their vaccination in other venues other than the school.

This vaccination is an issue that divides opinion, and I feel it necessary to outline the role of the school in this process. I have received very accusational and offensive communication from people outside of our school community around this issue, but the school role is very simple:

- to provide information to the SAIS provider on which children on their roll are eligible for the vaccine
- to share the information leaflet, consent form and invitation letter supplied by the SAIS team with parents and children
- to provide the space within school, and the time away from the timetable, to enable vaccinations to take place

The school plays no further part in administering the vaccinations or dealing with issues of consent; this is all dealt with through the SAIS team. Here is the link to the consent form. This is collated by the SAIS prior to the date of their visit, and is communicated only to Stanway on the morning of the visit. **Please complete this [consent form](#) before the end of Monday 11th October** if you choose to give parental consent for this vaccination.

The date given by the SAIS team for Stanway is **Tuesday 12th October**.

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The letter from the SAIS is attached to this message.

**There is also a [leaflet with information](#)**, which I would encourage all parents/carers and students to read fully, **including all the information in each hyperlink within the leaflet** so that informed decisions are made. Complicated issues of consent can be avoided if decisions about the vaccination are made together as families. I have included a [link to important information including some FAQs](#) provided by the Government which is available on their website, and this is particularly important to read when considering all the issues around consent for young people in this age range.

My role (and that of my staff) is only to encourage you to read all this information and to make a decision together as a family. While I recognise opinions vary significantly on this issue, it is not my role to move outside of the three expectations mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Bland