



Our Ref: 4518000826

19 January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer.

XANAX

Surrey Police has asked for this message to be sent through the Parent Mail system in all secondary schools in your area, and it is not particular to your child's school.

Surrey Police would like to advise parents of secondary school age children to be alert to a drug known as Xanax, which is increasingly being obtained and misused by children and adults in the area.

Xanax is a brand name for a prescription only medicine called Alprazolam, however the specific brand "Xanax" is not available on prescription in the UK. It is being obtained online and is a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The penalty for possession of this drug would mean that if your child is caught with it, they could be arrested and dealt with formally through the court process.

We have been advised of a small number of recent incidents where this drug has been supplied to children who have taken it, sometimes in conjunction with other drugs such as ketamine, MDMA (Ecstasy) and cannabis. On its own the drug can cause sleepiness, unusual drowsiness and blackouts making them more vulnerable. If mixed with alcohol there is an increased risk of overdose causing heart and breathing problems. The drug can also be addictive.

We are working hard to deal with the illegal supply of these drugs, especially to children, but we need your help to prevent further harm. We'd urge you to have conversation this weekend with your child around drugs. Please don't panic, do your research (there are some links below), pick your time to talk to them and listen to what they have to say.

- www.catch-22.org.uk/services/surrey
- www.nhs.uk/livewell/drugs/pages/drugsandyourkids.aspx
- www.talktofrank.com/news/dangers-xanax-misuse

We're also interested in any information that can help us with our enquiries. You can report it to Surrey Police on 101, quoting reference 4518000826 or use the online reporting tool on www.surrey.police.uk. You can also share your information anonymously with the independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, by calling 0800 555 111.