



Ysgol yr Holl Saint All Saints' School



Substance Misuse Policy

Equality Act Impact Assessment	YES	NO	April '18
Last Review Date	February 2024		
Date to be reviewed by Senior Management Team	February 2027		
Date Adopted by Governing Body	06.02.2024		
Head Teacher - Mr Richard Hatwood			
Chair of Governors – Mrs Jane Tinniswood			



Introduction

The strategy 'Tackling Substance Misuse in Wales: A Partnership Approach' (2000) states that '*Substance misuse in Wales is a complex, dynamic and multifaceted problem*'. One of the main aims of the strategy is to help pupils and young people resist substance misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society.

This policy should be read and applied alongside the **Welsh Assembly Government Circular 17/02 'Substance Misuse: Pupils and Young People'** which replaces circular 54/95.

Definition of a Substance

The word '*substances*' includes all mood and performance changing substances, both legal and illegal, and including prescribed drugs, alcohol, tobacco and solvents.

There is a clear policy on the administration of medicines. Pupils are acting unlawfully if they are supplying prescription drugs to others in school,

Implementation

The Headteacher and Governing Body have ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the Substance Misuse Policy.

At Ysgol yr Holl Saint - All Saints' School, the member of staff with responsibility for Substance Misuse is Richard Hatwood, Headteacher

Governors may also be involved in disciplinary proceedings as and when required.

Awareness

All Staff must be aware of the Substance Misuse Policy. Contact in relation to the policy should normally be made to:

- The Headteacher
- The Deputy Headteacher
- Mrs. Jan MacDonald, Child Protection Lead Officer for the Governing Body

Media Contact

Staff will not discuss or report incidents and/or issues concerning Substance Misuse to the local press or media generally. The Head teacher, in consultation with the Local Authority and Governors will deal personally with all media matters. All media enquiries will be to be referred to the Wrexham County Borough Council Press Office.

Curriculum

Effective Substance Misuse Education will enable pupils to make responsible informed choices about their lives. It will not be delivered in isolation; this will work in conjunction within the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning and Experience, which underpins this Policy.

Largely, education about Substance Misuse will take place in Health & Wellbeing lessons but will also be delivered through other Areas of Learning and Experience.

Phase	Health & Wellbeing Concepts	
Early Years	Understand that medicines are taken to make them better, but that some drugs are dangerous	Pupils should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines
Older Primary Years	Know the harmful effects, both to themselves and others of tobacco, alcohol, solvents and other legal and illegal substances	Pupils should be taught that tobacco and other drugs can have harmful effects
Lower Secondary Years	Know the effects of and risks from use of a range of legal and illegal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) and the laws governing their use	Pupils should be taught that the abuse of alcohol, and other drugs affect health
Upper Secondary Years	Know the pattern of drug use (including alcohol and tobacco) in their community and beyond and where to get help, information and advice	Pupils should be taught the dangers of contracting HIV and hepatitis by the use of intravenous drugs.

Delivery

At Ysgol yr Holl Saint - All Saints' School, pupils will learn about Substance Misuse Education using approaches that provide:

- Consistent accurate simple, clear information
- Informative and accessible reading materials
- Access to peers and credible adult experts, in addition to teachers/youth workers.
- Stimulating and enjoyable tasks
- Appropriate challenges in a secure environment, that enables all pupils to play a full and active part.

Use of outside Speakers

Visitors from external agencies who are delivering Substance Misuse education, invited into the school they are visitors and will be seen as contributing to the school's agreed programme and not replacing it. Visitors delivering Substance Misuse Education will be involved in the planning of the full programme and contribute their specific expertise where required e.g Police School Liaison Officer, Youth Worker, Healthy Schools Co-ordinator.

Complaints Procedure

Complaints about Substance Misuse Education should be made following the School Complaints Policy and Procedure.

Procedures for dealing with an incident

On becoming aware of incidents involving pupils and drugs, the staff member will report to the responsible staff member. Any incidents involving Substances or drugs should be communicated with the Headteacher or other responsible member of staff. The response will depend on the type and degree of risk reported.

Immediate action is needed when there is a clear risk to safety, for example:

Example	Action
<i>An adult collecting a child or young person appears to be under the influence of drink and/or drugs</i>	Apply locally agreed child protection procedures, involve the police if adult is aggressive
<i>A child or young person/adult appears ill or unsafe as a result of substance misuse</i>	Consider obtaining medical advice, note relevant facts and inform parent/carers
<i>Substances are being supplied on, or near premises</i>	Contact police
<i>There is ready access to controlled drugs</i>	Contact police
<i>The premise has potentially hazardous substance misuse related litter e.g. needles, syringes</i>	Arrange safe removal of litter according to Health and Safety Policy, involve police if related to illegal substance misuse
<i>Substance misusers behaving aggressively</i>	Seek urgent police assistance to remove
<i>A child/young person discloses that they are misusing drugs or their parent or other family members are misusing drugs</i>	Contact social services or specialist substance misuse service for advice on how to respond.

Exemplars above from Welsh Government Guidance.

Less immediate action e.g. observation, interview, consultation with other agencies, continued monitoring, may be appropriate when there are:

- Generalised allegations or concerns about a particular pupil or family
- Refuted/inconsistent disclosures
- Concerns but no evidence of substance misuse or related harmful or criminal conduct (such as supply of drugs or other harmful substances)
- Concerns but no evidence of immediate risk to safety

Actions requiring referral to other organisations include:

- Investigation of criminal activity, including searching persons or personal property
- Apart from immediate first aid, any health or medical emergency which should be attended by appropriate medical personnel
- Assessment and providing support and services to vulnerable or troubled pupils and families should be referred to social services
- It may be necessary to refer to counselling and drug treatment programmes are normally accessible through fully trained staff

Contact with Parents/Carers

Parents/carers will be informed of any drug related incident unless:

- There are child protection concerns
- It would interfere with a school investigation
- It would interfere with a police investigation
- It could result in greater harm to the child for another reason

Parents/Carers will normally be contacted directly by telephone in the event of proven drug usage. If it is suspected but not proven, the agreed police protocol will be implemented.

Contact with Police

Officers will be briefed as to the nature of the allegation and will be expected to respond appropriately. When the parents are not present a member of school staff (teaching or non-teaching) will be present throughout the interview.

Procedure for dealing with a pupil after an incident

It is not the role of the school to provide medical care to those under the influence of alcohol or drugs, but the school would contact the Emergency Services. If a pupil is at risk because of impaired mental state, parents/carers should be contacted and required to take responsibility for their child. Failing that, any emergency contact will be asked to assist. Alternatively social services and police can be called for advice. Nevertheless, staff will ensure pupil safety at all times.

Recording of Incidences

Accurate, factual records of all Substance Misuse and related incidents will be recorded using:

- My Concern Child Protection and Safeguarding system.

School Visits and Procedures

This policy applies to all school trips, visits and events organised by the school.

Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures apply at all times.

Confidentiality

Matters of Confidentiality will be applied in the same way as those of Child Protection and Safeguarding.

Procedure for Dealing with Incidents Involving Staff

Substance Misuse related incidents involving staff is subject to Wrexham County Borough Council's Employment and Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.

Procedure for Dealing with Adults/ Visitors to School

Where there is evidence that parents or carers arriving at school to collect pupils are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, Social Services or Police will be contacted in line with the Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy.

All parents, carers or visitors appearing to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol on the school premises, they will be asked to leave immediately. The safety of the staff and pupils is paramount. Where illegal substances are involved, Police will be informed.

Disposal of Drug Paraphernalia

Needles or syringes found on school premises will be placed in a secure. Used needles and syringes will be disposed of appropriately with advice taken from Corporate Health & Safety within the Local Authority.

Evaluation & Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Senior Management Team and Governing Body and adopted by the Governing Body as per the schedule on the front page.