



Ysgol Y Faenol Bodelwyddan

Substance Use & Misuse Policy

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Approved: Y
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Policy on Substance Use and Misuse

1. Introduction

The principal reason for this policy is the well being and welfare of our pupils and the school community. This document outlines the legal & educational responsibilities for staff at the school. Within this document, the title 'Head Teacher' refers to the Head Teacher or his/her nominated representative.

This policy reflects the shared values and aims of our school, providing guidance to teachers, support staff; parents; governors and pupils. This policy links to and is informed by other school policies regarding: Personal, Social and Health Education; Science; Behaviour; Assessment; Child Protection; Equal Opportunities; Special Educational Needs.

Specific advice on school visitors, medicines, health and safety, smoking, special needs, behaviour, confidentiality etc. are covered in more detail under other school policies.

2. Rationale

This policy assists our aim to further the well being of pupils at our school. As alcohol, tobacco & illicit substances are part of young people's lives we believe that it is right & proper to ensure the curriculum covers as much PSHE as possible. We are aware that: average first drug contact age is 12-13; drinkers outnumber non-drinkers by 13, and by 15 nearly all have tried alcohol; approximately 920,000 pupil live with excessive drinkers and 23% of child neglect cases via help line calls relate to alcohol abuse.

3. Our agreed definition of 'substances'

For the purposes of this policy 'substances' are defined as; all legal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, illegal drugs & over-the-counter & prescription medicines. We accept that drugs and substances usually alter our body chemistry, feelings and perceptions.

4. Aims of the Policy on Substance Use and Misuse

Whilst we acknowledge that the number of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, we recognise that a larger number of young people are choosing not to use or misuse substances. We provide a planned drug education curriculum as part of our Science, Personal and Social, Health Education and Language curriculum as we seek to inform and educate our pupils about the consequences of drug use and misuse. This document acknowledges and clarifies our school's role in drug prevention and drug education and helps ensure a whole school programme appropriate to our pupils' needs. Our School's provision incorporates knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills that help the pupil to lead fulfilled lives without the misuse of substances. The programme provides accurate information about substances relevant to a pupils age and maturity is responsive to pupil needs and will develop a holistic awareness of substances. This involves pupils developing; self-esteem, citizenship, decision-making skills, responsibility as well as drug & alcohol knowledge. We value this substance education as part of our holistic

view to health education and it is thus a vital part of our whole approach and commitment to being a healthy school. At our school substance education will therefore:

- enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- provide accurate information about substances
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- widen understanding about related health and social issues

These aims are achieved through aspects of the pupil's experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities. Whilst we deliver the taught curriculum mainly through PSE, Science and English areas, other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme

5. The National Perspective

Our aim and approach (to help young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential) is in line with the National Curriculum, the Government's 10-Year Strategy for Tackling Drug Misuse and recent advice from the Department for Education & Skills and the Welsh National Assembly.

6. Our Commitment to Health & Safety

Our school is committed to health and safety and will take appropriate steps to safeguard the well being of members of the school against substance misuse. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of our young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to educate all pupils & will facilitate support for those who need it. The school site will be checked to clear drug paraphernalia away if it is present, solvents and aerosols will be stored safely and pupil's use of solvents in lessons will be supervised.

7. Our School, Parents and Carers

As a school we share responsibility for the education of our young people with parents and carers. The school, parents and carers inform and involve each other through open and regular communication and co-operation to achieve the successful implementation of this policy.

8. Training for Teachers

Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

9. Denbighshire LEA, The Police, School Nurse and other support

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Police (Youth Affairs Officer), School Nurse, Social Services, Denbighshire Local Education Authority (LEA) and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to substance education.

10. The Head Teacher's responsibilities

The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies.

11. Substances found or used at Our School

The school believes that the possession and misuse of substances in school or during the school day is totally unacceptable. Misuse of the substances covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. Where pupils need to take prescribed medicines, parents are advised that staff are not permitted to administer the medicine or monitor its use. If a parent wishes their child to take medication during the school day, the parent has to come into school to carry this out.

12. An overview of our school's responses to incidents involving substances

If there are instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, the school will follow the school Substance Incident Management Policy. As part of these, and following discussion between staff members who know pupils well, the Head Teacher will inform parents/carers/the police at the earliest opportunity. We (school and parents/carers) can then work together to support the young person involved.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses may be necessary/appropriate to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the local community. As a last resort permanent exclusion may be warranted when all other reasonable steps have been taken.

13. Governors

The governing body will be involved in drug education and drug-related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school. The governors take a collective responsibility for substance education and for incidents involving substances.

14. Staff Welfare

Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the Denbighshire County Council (DCC) policy on drug and alcohol misuse as part of its health and safety policy. The DCC policy is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

15. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation of this policy and substance education will be carried out in line with the self-evaluation review timetable. The Governors will review this policy every two years, assess its implementation and effectiveness and ensure the policy is promoted and implemented throughout the school.

16. Healthy Schools Standard

As part of our commitment to the 'Healthy Schools' award, we recognise that education about substances and their use/misuse is a key factor in promoting the health and welfare of the pupils in our school. Where appropriate

17. Pupil and Parent/Carer Support

We aim to support pupils and parents/carers outside of school by referring them to the school nurse who has details of local support agencies, telephone helplines and website addresses. Occasionally, recognised agencies may visit the school.

18. Awareness of this policy

Teachers, support staff, parents/carers and governors have access to the contents of this policy and how it affects our school education and the welfare of our community. New members of the school community will be made aware of the policy through the welcome pack/prospectus or a member of staff responsible for induction or co-ordination. Outside contributors will be aware of the school's substance policy and any other policies relevant to it.