

This school has a responsibility to educate our pupils so that their actions are based on knowledge and accurate information, to enable them to have control over their lifestyles.

Our Substance Misuse policy has been developed using Welsh Government's 10 Year Strategy "Working together to reduce harm". The strategy covers:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Illegal Drugs — such as heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamines, LSD and cannabis.
- New Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs)
- Prescription only medications — such as anabolic steroids and benzodiazepines.
- Over the counter medications — such as preparations containing codeine.
- Volatile substances — such as aerosol propellants, butane, solvents and glues.

Parents and pupils should be aware that they are able to approach any member of staff and safely confide a substance misuse concern. The school will seek to provide support and information, and will ensure confidentiality provided there are no safeguarding concerns to any child.

Further information and support is available from:

DAFFS Project — help and support for anyone concerned about substance misuse. 01495 240824

DAYS Project — central referral point for young people (under 18) involved in substance misuse. DAYS collaborate with agencies to provide direct support.
0800 1687176

Wales Drugs and Alcohol Helpline.
0800 6335588

www.talktofrank.com: Information on Drugs: a full and detailed A-Z listing where to get help. Freephone helpline 0800 776600 open 24 hours.
frank@talktofrank.com

Police led learning in school
www.schoolbeat.org

Substance Misuse **Information for** **Parents**



At our school we value our children, young people and their future. With this in mind we have design all our policies to keep our pupils as safe as possible.

As a parent/carer of our pupils, you have a vital role to play. This school is part of your community and you are so important in helping us keep pupils safe. This leaflet will hopefully explain our procedures and your role within them.

Substance misuse is a problem within society and schools are not excluded from this. We are very aware that concerns do not just relate to illegal substances. We must maintain vigilance and an open dialogue with pupils in order to educate them to protect themselves.

As a parent, we hope you will help us in our duty to protect all our pupils. If we need to speak to you and your child about substance misuse nobody within our school will judge you, or accuse you. We simply need to discuss the facts and decide whether your family may need some extra help.

Within this leaflet we have outlined some of the standard procedures that staff **MUST** follow.

When school staff have concerns for child, the Headteacher will usually discuss this with the parent, but in some circumstances this will not be possible and Police or Social Services may be called instead.

The pupil's safety is our primary concern and information may be shared with other agencies if we feel a pupils is at risk.



Staff will:

- Assess if there is a medical emergency
- Contact the Headteacher or CP lead without delay
- Seize and retain the substance concerned and transfer it to the Headteacher or CP lead.
- Make early decisions around contacting parents and carers or other agencies
- Ensure that written records are maintained of any incidents
- Have discussions with pupils and their parents/carers around support available.

Staff will not:

- Focus on the disciplinary aspect of substance misuse on school premises
- Behave in an accusatory manner towards the pupil
- Ask questions that may interfere with a possible criminal investigation.
- Discuss the allegation other than with designated staff
- Promise to keep secrets

None of these procedures are aimed at upsetting or distressing you as parents/carers. They are designed to look at your child's needs.

The Headteacher will not ask parents before calling Social Services if:

- The parent/carer knew of the concerns and did not protect the child
- The parent/carer is the cause of concern
- The parent/carer would not be able to discuss the concern

As a parent/carer you play a vital role in all that the school do, especially when it comes to ensuring all our pupils are safeguarded and protected. As a school we ask that you as parents:

- Talk to staff about any concerns you have for your child
- Remember that the school **MUST** share concerns about your child
- Understand that the school will **NOT** judge you, but they may have to share difficult information
- Remember that the school **MUST** prioritise the safety and wellbeing of pupils. We cannot keep secrets from other agencies