



Substance Misuse Policy

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is at the heart of our school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. As a rights-respecting school we not only teach about children's rights but also model rights and respect in all relationships - linked to Articles 6, 33, 36

Substance Misuse Policy

Policy Application

This policy applies throughout the school grounds and buildings. The policy also applies on any school visit.

Rationale

Ysgol Gymraeg Pontybrenin is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing. The school does not accept the misuse of drugs or substances by members of the school, or the illegal supply of these substances. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and will seek to support all in the handling of drug related situations.

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level we wish to state that, as part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, Ysgol Gymraeg Pontybrenin believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people about the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school takes a positive stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the Health & Wellbeing curriculum for all pupils.

Fundamental to our School's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of our young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy. Whilst we acknowledge that the number of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, it is seen as important to recognise that a larger number of young people are choosing not to use or misuse substances. We will continue to support their differing needs.

The range of substances covered by this policy

The substances covered by this policy include:

- Tobacco (including vapes)
- Alcohol
- Over the counter medicines
- Prescription only medicines, including anabolic steroids and benzodiazepines
- Volatile substances, including aerosol propellants, butane, solvents and glues
- Illegal substances, including heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamines, LSD, GHB and cannabis

Procedures for managing substance misuse related incidents

Definition of an incident

It is impossible to provide an exhaustive list of incidents that may be covered by this policy, but the following are examples of the type of incidents that are covered:

- substance misuse related litter in or around the premises e.g. disposable vapes, cans, syringes;
- suspicion and allegations about an individual's activities;
- disclosure about substance misuse on the premises or elsewhere whilst the responsibility of the school e.g. school trip;
- children clearly displaying signs of substance misuse;
- possession of substances while children, young people or adults are the responsibility of the school;
- use of substances while children, young people or adults are the responsibility of the school;
- selling or dealing in substances while children, young people or adults are the responsibility of the school.

Further action that may follow an incident

For incidents involving pupils and an illegal substance, the school will use the LEA's Drug Related Incidents Reporting Form.

For other incidents involving pupils, the school's usual procedures for recording behaviour incidents will be followed as set out in the Behaviour Policy.

In any action that the school takes following an incident, the welfare of pupils involved will be of paramount importance. Support for pupils involved and their parents/carers will be arranged in discussion with appropriate agencies.

Disciplinary action taken against pupils may include fixed term exclusion and, in exceptional circumstances, permanent exclusion. The school will follow the guidelines set out in the LEA's Substance Misuse: Guidance for Schools and the Welsh Assembly Government's Circular 17/02.

Following an incident the school will also review the substance misuse education provided to pupils and make amendments to this as necessary.

Substance Misuse Education

The school is committed to tackling substance misuse through educating its pupils on the dangers of these issues. The implementation of circle time and cross-curricular Health & Wellbeing activities contributes significantly to the development of the skills, attitudes and values that pupils require as they progress through all phases of life.

A Schools Liaison Officer from South Wales Police also contributes through annual visits with Year 4 and 6 pupils.

CONFIDENTIALITY

It may be appropriate for staff to provide one-to-one support and advice for pupils. In such circumstance, staff will make pupils aware that they cannot offer total confidentiality. All staff will adhere to the school's Child Protection Policy.

Policy Adoption
Date of Review by Governing Body: 27/6/23
Date Endorsed and ratified by the Governing Body: 27/6/23
Chair of Governors Signature: