



Plascrug CP School	Substance Use and Misuse Policy
Date of Policy	October 24th 2012
Review Date	October 2014

Introduction

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

Effective substance misuse education enables children and young people to make responsible well informed choices about their lives. This policy takes into account the Welsh Assembly Government Circular 17/02 "Substance Misuse; Children and Young People" which replaced circular 54/95

Definition

A substance is defined as a chemical, which can alter mood and physical behaviour. All are drugs, some illegal, e.g. cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, heroin, while others are legal, e.g. alcohol, solvents, tobacco. Legal drugs also include prescribed and over the counter medicines.

Aims

- To empower children and young people to make responsible, well informed decisions about substances used and /or misused within society.
- To raise awareness of substance misuse among school pupils, staff, parents and governors of the school.

Objectives

- To provide clear guidelines which will enable staff to respond sensitively and confidently to pupils associated with possession or use of substances on school premises or outside.
- To provide guidelines on where substance misuse education can be delivered within the PSE framework and National Curriculum orders for Science with emphasis on a skills based programme.

Discovery of Substances

Schools should liaise closely with their local police officers to ensure that there is an agreed policy for dealing with the range of incidents which might arise involving illegal drugs. Although there is no statutory requirements to do so, the Secretary of State would expect the police to be informed when illegal drugs are found on a pupil or on the school premises. The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and from committing the offence of possession. They should hand the substance to the police from will be able to identify whether it is an illegal drug; school staff should not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance.

Role of the coordinator

At Plascrug School we have a specific named contact for substance misuse education. It is the role of this person to ensure that all staff are aware of developments. The main contact for information is _____

Curriculum

The school's approach to substance misuse education is reflected in the school's approach to Personal and Social Education which includes a statement that PSE encompasses "All the planned learning experiences and opportunities which take place not only in the classroom but also in other areas of school experience".

Substance misuse education requires a sensitive approach, which is matched to the particular needs and concerns of the pupils. It must be age and ability appropriate.

The following table clearly sets the agenda for the teaching of substance misuse across key stages and details the Framework for children's Learning for 3-7 year-olds in Wales, (2010), PSE framework for 7-19 year-olds and the Wales National Curriculum Science Order(2008). In addition to knowledge and understanding, the development of attitudes, values and skills are an essential part of substance misuse education. The following are most relevant:

Foundation Phase	Personal and Social Development, Well-Being and Cultural Diversity	
	Pupils should be taught about medicines that are taken to make them feel better, and the dangers of drugs, smoking, alcohol and other dangerous substances.	
Key Stage	PSE framework for 7—19-year-olds in Wales	National Curriculum Science orders
2	Know the harmful effects, both to themselves and others of tobacco, alcohol, solvents and other legal and illegal substances.	Pupils should be taught the effect on the human body of some drugs, e.g. Alcohol, solvents, tobacco.

<i>Attitudes and values</i>	<i>Skills</i>
Respect for self and others Trust Honesty and truth Independence of mind and the right to hold individual views Fairness and justice Sensitivity to the environment	Listening Assertiveness, including resistance skills Problem Solving Peer working Thinking skills

Managing Substance Misuse Incidents in School

Definition of an incident:

The types of substance misuse related incidents will vary and might include:

- *Litter related to substance misuse around the premises, e.g. Cans, syringes etc.*
- *Suspicion and allegations about an individual's activities*
- *Disclosure about substance misuse on the premises or whilst the children/ young people are the responsibility of the organisation*
- *Children and young people clearly displaying signs of substance misuse*
- *Possession of substances while children and young people or adults are the responsibility of the organisation.*

- *Use of substances while young children and young people or adults are the responsibility of the organisation,*
- *Selling or dealing in substances while children or young people or adults are the responsibility of the organisation.*

For further guidance refer to the Welsh Assembly Government Circular 17/02 “Substance Misuse: Children and Young People” Page 23.

Managing Substance Misuse Related Incidents

Overriding Principal

The appropriate response safeguards the welfare of the pupil - all incidents of substance misuse should be treated seriously.

Report Incident to named responsible person on the staff.
Confidentiality is not an option if a pupil is at risk

Classify the incident according to the speed of action required

Classification of Incident

Category 1—Immediate Action

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An adult collecting a child or young person appears to be under the influence of drink or drugs, • A child or young adult appears ill or unsafe as a result of substance misuse, • Substances are being supplied on or near the premises, • There is ready access to controlled drugs, • The premises has potentially hazardous substance misuse related litter, needles, syringes. • Substance misusers behaving aggressively, • A child/young adult discloses that they are misusing drugs or their parents or family members are misusing drugs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply locally agreed child protection procedures, involve the police if adult is aggressive, • Consider obtaining medical advice, note relevant facts and inform parent/carer, • Contact police, • Contact police, • Arrange safe removal of litter according to Health and Safety Policy. Involve police. • Seek urgent police assistance to remove. • Contact social services or specialist Substance Misuse Service for advice on how to respond.
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Category 2 - *Less Immediate Action*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General allegations or concerns about a particular child / young person or family, • Refuted / inconsistent disclosures, • Concerns but no evidence of substance misuse or related harmful or criminal conduct (such as supply of drugs or harmful substances) • Concerns but no evidence of immediate risk to safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less immediate action, e.g. observation, interview, consultation with other agencies may be appropriate.
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Category 3 - *Referral*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 children and families, • Counselling and Drug treatment programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Police, • Contact Medical Services • Contact Social Services • Contact Health or specialist Substance Misuse Services.
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Category 4 - *Organisation of Staff*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for young children and those with limited understanding, • Supporting children and young people involved in experimenting with solvents, alcohol or controlled drugs, • Applying a range of responses appropriate to the incident, • Referring to agencies outside the organisation for support, advice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named person to attend training courses on Substance Misuse and provide teaching staff / support staff with guidance, advice and training.
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Chair of Governing Body: _____

Headteacher: _____

Date: _____

Action Checklist for a Substance Misuse Incident



The immediate priority is the welfare of the child or young person. ✓ or X

Provide first aid as necessary , minimise risk of harm to him/herself or others,	
Send for an ambulance if required. Arrange for appropriate adult to accompany children and young people to hospital.	
Inform parent/carer of incident, invite parent/carer to come to the premises,	
If medical treatment is not required the child/young person (and belongings) should be taken to a private room and supervised preferably by two members of staff.	
The manager or member of staff with responsibility for substance misuse has to quickly establish the facts and take action following clear, written procedures.	
Contact police for advice/involvement as necessary,	
Arrange an interview of the pupil/young person with witness to establish the facts of the incident, level of involvement and whether others were involved. <i>Records must be kept.</i>	
Arrange interview for staff and other pupils and young people involved. <i>Records must be kept.</i>	
Inform line management as soon as possible in accordance with policy.	

Once investigation has finished, assess the appropriate response and involve other organisations as required by policy.

Checklist for interview with pupils and young people

✓ or X

Remind pupil/young person of the policy regarding substance misuse and the procedures to be followed to investigate the incident, including the intention to contact parents/carers and the police.	
Ask child / young person to hand over any substances. If reluctant to do so, explain that request will be repeated in presence of parents/carers and possibly police. It is not legal to carry out personal searches.	
Once investigation has finished, give consideration to the guidance, which has been given in terms of sanctions and involvement of other agencies.	
Parents/carers should be allowed access to the child/young person with a member of staff present at all times.	
Where police involvement is necessary every attempt should be made to have parents/carers present.	

Record of Substance Misuse Incident



School	Date of Incident	Date and Time Reported	
		Reported by:	
Pupil(s) involved 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		Dates of Birth:	
Description of Incident			
<i>Home Contact number(s):</i>			
1 2 3 4			
Category of Incident	Action Taken	By Whom	Contacted
Drug related litter on or near school premises.			
Suspicion, allegation and disclosure in and out of school activities.			
Symptoms of drug misuse.			
Pupils/parents with drugs on school premises / trips/ transport.			
Pupils / parents selling / supplying drugs on school premises / trip / transport.			

Contacts made (where appropriate)

Category of Incident	Contact No	By whom	Date/time	Response
<i>Police</i>				
<i>Ambulance</i>				
<i>Other Health Professionals</i>				
<i>Health Promotion Dept.</i>				
<i>Social Services</i>				
<i>Youth Offending Team</i>				
<i>Environmental Health</i>				
<i>Education Department</i>				
<i>Local Drug Support Agency</i>				

Pupil Interview Details

Name of Pupil	
Place of Interview	
Date and time of Interview	
Names and Status of witnesses present	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p>

Outcome of Interview:

Signed:

Witnessed by:

Designation:

Designation:

Date:

Date: