



Substance Misuse Policy



Date:	
Review date:	
Signed (Chair of Governors):	

Definition of 'drug'

A drug is defined as a chemical substance that can change the way a human body works, either physiologically or psychologically.

Policy Statement

At Penygelli School there shall be:-

- no taking of illegal substances by any person, child or adult. It is an offence to knowingly allow anyone to use illegal substances on school premises;
- no solvent or aerosol abuse;
- no alcohol brought onto, or consumed, on the premises by any child;
- no smoking on school premises as a whole
- reasonable care of any prescribed or non prescribed medicine brought onto the premises (in accordance with School Policy).

Aims of our Drug Prevention Activities are:

- To make the school a health promoting environment.
- To provide drug education for pupils, carers and the community.
- To make available information about drugs and drug use.
- To ensure that the school's premises are a safe environment with respect to drugs.
- To be prepared to talk to young people about drug related problems and to offer them advice and support.
- To help our children to make good decisions.
- To help our young people to develop their self esteem.

Our Drugs Policy will be:

- Widely publicised and distributed.
- Readily available as a reference source.
- Included in induction sessions (for new pupils, new staff, new governors and prospective parents/carers).
- Referred to in our School Prospectus.
- Included in our Staff Handbook.

In order to implement this policy, the following points must be noted:-

1. **Procedures** See Appendix A

2. **Drug Education** See Appendix B

3. **Over the Counter Drugs**

Children must not be given over the counter drugs in school or carry them on their person on school premises.

4. **Medicines in School**

Please see Policy for the Administration of Medicine.

5 Non-Smoking Policy

- a.** In our schools we aim to teach children a positive attitude towards non-smoking. We have implemented a no smoking policy within our school building and grounds.
- b.** This policy runs through holidays as well as term time, emphasising the importance we give to this matter and setting a clear example to children.
- c.** All parents will be informed of this policy and have been asked to support the school by not smoking anywhere on the school premises at anytime.

Please see separate Smoking Policy.

Appendix A

PROCEDURES

Illegal Drugs

In the unlikely event that a child in our school will be in possession of drugs, the child found with a suspicious substance will be taken to the Headteacher and the LEA informed. Parents will be informed. Consideration will be given to the involvement of other appropriate agencies.

Having removed the substance, it will be placed in a sealed container, recording the time, place and date of when the substance came to our attention (in the presence of a witness).

The Headteacher will contact the local police to arrange for the substance to be collected, identified and secure it into police custody for later disposal. A record will be kept by the school of any drug incident. The Chair of Governors will be informed.

If any equipment associated with substance misuse is found on school premises, it will be handled with extreme care for risk of infection. It will be stored in a secure and rigid container e.g. an empty coke can, to await collection by the police.

Staff need to note that:

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to take in to one's possession illegal substances even with the intent of preventing a student from committing or continuing to commit an offence in connection with that drug unless the member of staff takes all reasonable steps as soon as possible to hand the illegal drugs to the police.

Appendix B

Drug Education

Young children may not realise the dangers associated with 'tablets'; many drugs look very similar to sweets. At the same time, many illegal drugs look similar to tablets. We will follow the above procedure as staff will not be in the position to recognise or identify the substance/drug in question.

Our Drug Education Programme delivered through our PSE Scheme of work and regular visits and talks by the Police Officer for Education should help to alleviate incidents of this nature.

As part of their health education, the children of Penygelli School I will participate in special topics which include drugs awareness week. This will include watching the roadshow 'Don't Touch Tell' and involvement in various cross curricular activities.

Our school's aims for our drug awareness programme are as follows:

- To improve children and young people's knowledge of drugs and their effects on the human body.
- To raise awareness of drug use and misuse to the individual, the family, peers, local communities and society.
- To enable young people to make informed choices and sensible decisions about drug use.
- To enable our children to develop a range of skills and techniques appropriate for handling situations related to drugs and drug use.
- To encourage young people to find satisfaction, challenge, pleasure, emotional variety and excitement through a range of activities.
- To help children and young people to explore and develop their own attitudes to drug use.
- To enable our children to identify sources of information and personal support and be able to make use of these sources if they require them.

Implementing and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the school, Local Authority and Welsh Government guidance.

