

BRYN DERI PRIMARY

Bryn Deri Primary School

School Substance Misuse Policy



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Introduction

Bryn Deri Primary School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable, since it represents a threat to our health and safety. Bryn Deri Primary School is committed to taking seriously its part in the education of children about substance misuse. It supports the Wales strategy for tackling substance misuse by helping children and young people resist substance misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society. (Refer to WG guidance)

This policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff. It has been drawn up as a result of staff and governors' discussion.

Context

The policy was written with reference to the following Government initiatives and guidance:

- Working Together to Reduce Harm (2008-2018)
- Circular 107/2013 Guidance on Substance Misuse Education (2013)

Reference was also made to the following Police guidance document:

- School Crime Beat: A protocol for police supporting schools with incidents of crime and disorder (2010).

The Substance Misuse Policy stands alone complimenting the Safeguarding policy and relevant curriculum and school policies.

Aims of the policy

The aims of the Substance Misuse Policy are:

- To ensure that all members of the school know and understand the rules of the school, how they are expected to behave and the policy regarding substance misuse incidents.
- To encourage and enable children to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle now, and in the future.
- To help parents / carers and children to identify what they need to learn about drugs and how they can take responsibility for their actions

- To enable children and staff to gain access to support structures, e.g counselling and treatment agencies

The School's Stance on drugs

Bryn Deri Primary School defines the term 'Drugs' to mean all substances capable of being misused including alcohol, tobacco, medicines and volatile substances as well as illegal drugs.

All the drugs covered by this policy are not permitted to be brought to, sold, passed on, or obtained on school premises during the school day. This applies equally to school staff and other adults working in and for the school, apart from alcohol at official school social events.

The nature of substance misuse education

The central aim of substance misuse education is to empower children to make healthy, responsible informed decisions about drugs. It will make an important contribution to stopping young people starting using a substance or delaying the onset of first use.

Empowering children to make informed choices will be achieved by:

- (a) Giving accurate information about drugs and their effects, the law, ways of keeping safe.
- (b) Exploring feelings, attitudes and values, discussing risk-taking and building up self-esteem;
- (c) Developing personal and social skills, such as communicating effectively, being assertive, making decisions, problem solving.

We regard substance misuse education as a whole school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum. We are committed to the four core purposes of the curriculum and developing healthy, confident individuals who:

- have secure values and are establishing their spiritual and ethical beliefs
- are building their mental and emotional well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy
- apply knowledge about the impact of diet and exercise on physical and mental health in their daily lives
- know how to find the information and support to keep safe and well
- take part in physical activity
- take measured decisions about lifestyle and manage risk
- have the confidence to participate in performance
- form positive relationships based upon trust and mutual respect
- face and overcome challenge
- have the skills and knowledge to manage everyday life as independently as they can

- and are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Bryn Deri Primary School recognises that substance misuse education is not so much about drugs but more about the children themselves – their values and attitudes, their relationships, their problems, their risk-taking, their decisions, their sensation seeking. Therefore, children need to be engaged actively in the process which addresses knowledge, attitudes, values and behaviour.

It will form part of the Health and Wellbeing AoLE provision and will be taught across the curriculum by the classroom teacher. If appropriate the police school liaison officer will be invited to take part in a discussion about drugs and the law.

The main aims of Substance Misuse Education

- To help children to be aware of the dangerous substances that might be around them at home and in the community – e.g. medicines, cigarettes, etc
- To give children sufficient information about substances so that they can keep themselves and others safe.
- To help children explore their attitudes and values and equip them with relevant skills so that they can make informed and healthy choices about substances.
- To clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents and carers and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities.
- To safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school.
- To enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

Implementation Procedures

Drug Misuse Education will be carried out using The Preventing Substance Misuse in the Primary School Pilot Toolkit

Pupils in Nursery to Year 2 will look at the following areas:

- Understand that medicines are taken to take them feel better and that some drugs are dangerous.
- Develop an understanding about dangers in the home and outside environment

For pupils in Years 3-6 the programme includes medicines, smoking tobacco, alcohol, volatile substances and illegal substances.

Pupils in Years 3-6 will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug, and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils that smoking is a minority habit, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach pupils about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers. We acknowledge that by the time pupils are in Year 6, some of them may have had some experiences with drugs already; however, we must help to equip pupils to handle risky situations, before they actually meet them.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge and understanding, attitudes and values, and skills together and when learning and teaching are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible, the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils.

We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents or carers. Important values related to substance misuse education to be promoted in the school are respect for self and others; independence of mind and the right to hold individual views; keeping oneself safe; looking after the body; honesty and truth; sensitivity to the environment

Important skills related to substance misuse education to be developed in the school are resisting pressure, analysing risk, decision making and problem solving.

Drug related incidents

Any drug related incident involving a pupil is taken seriously and each case dealt with within its own context. The immediate priority is the welfare of the child, however the following responses would

- If an illegal substance is found on school premises it will be locked away and the appropriate authority will be contacted to dispose of it.
- If a child is found with a cigarette, alcohol or any other substance, legal or illegal, it will be confiscated, the parents will be informed and further action discussed.
- If the child is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs the parents will be informed and medical advice may be obtained.
- If a child discloses that they are misusing drugs child protection procedures will be applied.
- If substances are being supplied on or near school premises the police will be contacted.
- When it is appropriate families will be referred to an information and counselling service.
- All substance misuse will be recorded

Sanctions

The following is a list of sanctions that may be initiated when a pupil is involved in a drug or alcohol incident:

- Loss of privileges.
- Break and Lunch time detention.
- Monitoring of progress in class.
- Exclusion – any pupil found to be supplying substances, or believed to be supplying substances will be immediately excluded pending further enquiries.

Sanctions will always be used alongside support and will be in proportion with the offence.

Incidents will be recorded on a record of drug related incident form. These records will be kept by the Head Teacher in a Child Protection File. They will be treated as confidential records and only be accessible to staff on a need to know basis.


Location

A copy of the Substance Misuse Policy will be located in the staff handbook. If further copies are required, please contact the Head Teacher.

Monitoring and Review

We are aware of the need to review the school Substance Misuse Policy regularly.

Health and Wellbeing Leader – Louise Clark

Date Approved by FGB	
Signed on behalf of FGB	
Name (Chair of Governors)	Angharad Thomas- Richards
Date	09/10/2024
Date sent to LA	February 2015
Date of next review (Major Update or Signature + 2 years)	