

Substance Misuse Policy Guidance Information for Parents & Carers



Background

Substance Use and Misuse is one of seven health themes that form the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Schemes.

This encompasses the 2013 Welsh Government Guidance for Substance Misuse Education.

A review of the existing county Substance Misuse Policy Guidance was undertaken jointly by Flintshire Healthy Schools Scheme and Flintshire Sorted in 2015.

Following consultation with a variety of stakeholders in 2015, a revised guidance policy has been made available for secondary schools. The policy can be adopted in its entirety by Governing Bodies, or should be considered in line with a school's existing policies, upon review.

This leaflet is intended to provide parents and carers of secondary aged pupils in Flintshire with a summary of the agreed sanctions for Substance Misuse included in the Guidance Policy.

What is a substance?

'A substance is something people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'. This includes the following:

- Tobacco and E cigarettes
- Energy Drinks
- Alcohol
- Steroids
- New Psychoactive Substances (NPS):
Previously known as 'Legal Highs' For example: Spice
- Over The Counter (OTC) Drugs:
For example: Paracetamol, Sudafed
- Prescription Drugs:
For example: Insulin
- Illegal Drugs:
For example: Heroin, LSD, Cocaine, Ecstasy, Cannabis, Amphetamines
- Volatile Substances:
For example: glue, aerosols, gas lighters, refill lighters, petrol



Substance misuse is not permitted in any:

- School buildings
- School grounds
- Extra curricular activities on and off school site
- School trips or visits - for example away sports fixtures, work experience, residential trips
- School transport
- Journey to and from school and behaviour in the immediate vicinity of the school.

What happens if a pupil uses, possesses or supplies CIGARETTES (Tobacco) E-CIGARETTES or ENERGY DRINKS in school?

1. Substance is confiscated and destroyed.
2. Parents/carers to be notified in writing.
3. Smoking / Caffeine are highly addictive; pupil to be signposted to sources of support.

SANCTIONS FOR POSSESSION OR USE:

- FIRST OFFENCE - written warning, parent/carer informed.
- SECOND OFFENCE - Detention.
- REPEAT OFFENCES - 1 day Isolation and thereafter sanction to depend on individual circumstances.

What happens if a pupil drinks, is in possession of, or supplies ALCOHOL in school?

1. Substance is confiscated and destroyed.
2. Parent /carer to be contacted to collect child from school.
3. Parent /carer to be notified in writing.
4. Parent /carer must attend a meeting with the school.
5. Child to be referred to the Young Persons Substance Misuse Service for help.
6. The police may be involved.

SANCTIONS FOR POSSESSION OR USE (including suspected consumption):

- FIRST OFFENCE - 2 day isolation.
- REPEAT OFFENCES - 1 day fixed term exclusion.

SANCTIONS FOR SUPPLY:

- FIRST OFFENCE - 2 day isolation.
- REPEAT OFFENCES - 2 day fixed term exclusion.

What happens if a pupil uses, possesses or supplies ILLEGAL DRUGS, NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS), VOLATILE SUBSTANCES or STEROIDS in school?

1. The school will confiscate the substance and retain as evidence for the police.
2. Parents/carers to be contacted to collect pupil from school.
3. Parents/carers to be informed in writing.
4. The Education Authority and Police will be notified.
5. Pupil and parents/carers must attend a meeting with the school.
6. Pupil to be referred to the Young Persons Substance Misuse Service for help.

SANCTIONS FOR POSSESSION OR USE (including suspected consumption):

- FIRST OFFENCE - Permanent Exclusion.
- Suspected Consumption: 1 day Isolation.

SANCTIONS FOR SUPPLY:

- FIRST OFFENCE - 5 day fixed term exclusion. Pending further investigation. If proven, Permanent Exclusion.

What happens if a pupil needs to have PRESCRIPTION or OVER THE COUNTER DRUGS in school?

1. The pupil will need to have an authorisation letter from a parent / carer stating what drugs the pupil requires.
2. The pupil will need to keep the drugs safe at all times, or locked in an approved area in the school.
3. The pupil must show the letter when asked.
4. If prescription or over the counter drugs belong to pupil, they should NEVER share them with anyone else.

What happens if a pupil supplies PRESCRIPTION / OVER THE COUNTER (OTC) DRUGS in school?

1. The school will confiscate the substance and retain as evidence for the police.
2. Parent/carer to be contacted to collect pupil from school.
3. Parent/carer will be informed in writing.
4. The Education Authority and Police will be notified.
5. Pupil and parent/carer must attend a meeting with the school.
6. Pupil will be referred to the Young Persons Substance Misuse Service for help.

SANCTIONS FOR POSSESSION OR USE:

- School to determine depending on individual circumstances.

SANCTIONS FOR SUPPLY:

- FIRST OFFENCE - 5 day fixed term exclusion. Pending further investigation. If proven, Permanent Exclusion.

Flintshire Sorted
Tel: 01352 703493

School Nurse
Health Drop in

Frank
www.talktofrank.com

Dan 24/7
www.dan247.org.uk

The Filter
www.thefilterwales.org

Stop Smoking Wales
www.stopsmokingwales.com

