



## DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

The school acknowledges that drugs play a part in everyone's life, and that experimentation with drugs has always been a feature of many young people's lives. It is the responsibility of all schools to help reduce the harm from drugs, to play a role in drug abuse prevention and to help those who abuse drugs.

This policy emphasises the school's pastoral role and pro-active approach to Drug Education and a clear view on handling drug abuse in school. In developing this policy the school has considered its legal responsibility, the needs of students, teachers, parents, governors and the local community.

### STATEMENT OF POLICY

This policy is concerned with legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, heroin and their derivatives.

There is no place in this school for the misuse of drugs, tobacco, alcohol or other substances by any member of the school, nor for the illegal supply of these substances.

The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

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

Any student having an involvement with, or believed to be involved with alcohol, tobacco or any other substance between the time of leaving home for school, and returning home after school, may be excluded as a deterrent to possible offenders and for the protection of other students.

Any student found to be supplying substances, or believed to be supplying substances will be immediately excluded from school pending further enquiries by the relevant authorities.

### DRUG AND SUBSTANCES ABUSE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

The school provides a comprehensive and planned Drug and Substance Abuse Education curriculum for all students, as a part of Health Education; it aims to provide students with knowledge, attitude and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs. In addition, the school works closely with the local Police



Force, Cardiff Council, Drug Groups, Agencies, Theatre Groups, and regularly involves Police Officers in the delivery of the Drugs education modules.

### **RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS**

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents and appropriate outside agencies and for the identification within the school of a Substance Abuse Coordinator (Assistant Head Teacher Wellbeing), who has the general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of the policy. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance abuse issues are adequately supported and trained.

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussions with staff members who know the students concerned well:

If a student admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the member of staff will inform the (Assistant Head Teacher Wellbeing), the parents will be informed and the advice of the Police sought.

Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity, by a member of the Senior Leadership Group; the school and the parents can then work together to support the young person involved.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Students at this school need to feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about substance related problems without the fear of being judged or told off. However, staff will not be able to promise complete confidentiality, in order to seek specialist help/advice if necessary. Information concerning these cases will follow the usual school procedures; i.e. the Substance Abuse Coordinator will be informed in the first instance, the Director of Studies as well as the Headteacher will be consulted and help sought if appropriate.

### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Parents will be informed of the Substance Abuse Education curriculum, be given a copy of the policy outline on entry to the school and have the opportunity to raise concerns. Parents will be contacted if their child is caught breaking the rules on Substance Abuse.

### **POLICE INVOLVEMENT**

The school maintains strong links with the local community police throughout their involvement in the Substance Abuse Education curriculum, which helps students have a greater understanding of the role of the police in these matters. It is the policy of the school to contact the local community police/schools liaison officer where an incident has involved illegal substances, and to hand the substance to the police.

Reviewed: Autumn 2014; next review Autumn 2017



## St Teilo's Church-in-Wales High School