

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

Substance Misuse Policy

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Bishop Vaughan School follows the Guidance for Schools issued by the Welsh Government.

Guidelines for dealing with drugs have been compiled by Bishop Vaughan and are also included.

Rationale

Children and young people face many challenges in their lives, exposure to substance misuse being one of them. Substance misuse can present problems to individuals, families and communities. Substance misuse education (SME) plays a crucial role in providing information and guidance to challenge and stop children and young people engaging in substance misuse.

This document covers the use of:

- controlled substances, including tobacco, alcohol and e-cigarettes (vapes)
- over the counter medicines
- prescription only medicines such as anabolic steroids and benzodiazepines
- illegal substances such as heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamines, LSD, cannabis, magic mushrooms etc.
- volatile substances such as aerosol propellants, butane, solvents and glues
- new and emerging drugs (NEDs) also known as 'legal highs'.

1. Pupils in possession of controlled substances, volatile substances, illegal drugs or NED's on any part of the school site

[NB 'site' refers also to transport to and from school or any school trip and journey.]

First offences

- a) The substance(s) will be confiscated and kept secure by the school. The pupil may be asked to turn out pockets and bags etc. to ascertain there is nothing else.
- b) The pupil will be asked to write a statement explaining the circumstances leading to possession thereof. They will be asked the names of any other pupils involved.
- c) Parent/Guardians will be contacted by Head of Year or member of Senior Leadership Team. Emergency contact numbers will be used as necessary.
- d) Following parental contact and in the light of Welsh Assembly Circular: 3/99 the school may refer the matter to the police.
- e) The pupil will be referred to a suitable external agency for support and counselling. Pupils and their parents will be expected to co-operate.
- f) The pupil will be given guidance by a Senior Member of staff. This may be over more than one session and may involve parents.
- g) Depending on circumstances the pupil will be detained off the school playground at break times and lunch times for the equivalent of up to half a term. Privileges such as school visits etc. may also be withdrawn for a similar period.
- h) Depending on circumstances the pupil may be **given a fixed term exclusion of up to 15 days or in some cases a permanent exclusion.**

Second or subsequent offences

- a) Points a-d (inclusive) above apply.
- b) The Headteacher and relevant senior staff will meet to consider the situation. The outside agency from the first offence will be consulted if possible.
- c) In accordance with the Good Conduct Code such sanctions as seem appropriate will be imposed. **For such a serious matter this is likely to be permanent exclusion.**
- d) Any pupil permanently excluded can make representations to Governors and/or formal appeal as laid down in Welsh Office Circular: 3/99.

2. Dealing in or distributing controlled substances, volatile substances, illegal drugs or NEDs to others, whether or not for monetary gain.

[NB 'passing on' illegal substances/ NEDs to others is extremely serious. No distinction is made by the school in respect of first or second offences.]

- e) The substance(s) will be confiscated and kept secure by the school. The pupil may be asked to turn out pockets and bags etc. to ascertain there is nothing else.
- f) The pupil will be asked to write a statement explaining the situation. They will be asked the names of any other pupils involved.
- g) Parents/Guardians will be contacted by a Head of Year or member of Senior Leadership Team. Emergency contact numbers will be used as necessary.
- h) Following parental contact and in the light of Welsh Assembly Circular: 3/99 the school may refer the matter to the police.
- i) The investigation of such incidents will normally be by the behaviour support staff supported by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. On conclusion

of the Investigation the Headteacher and relevant staff will meet to consider the situation. They will consult with the Local Authority and any outside agency known to have been involved with the pupil either currently or in the recent past.

- j) In accordance with the Good Conduct Code such sanctions as seem appropriate will be imposed. **For such a serious matter this is likely to be permanent exclusion.**
- k) Any pupil permanently excluded can make representations to Governors and/or formal appeal as laid down in Welsh Office Circular: 3/99.

3. The use of prescription and over the counter medicines on site

It is not permitted for any prescription drugs to be used on the school site unless they accompanied by an up to date medical certificate which needs to be kept on record in the First Aid Office. In most cases a health care plan should be put in place and made accessible to all staff.

It is not permitted for pupils to carry over the counter medicines on site. If pupils wish to use over the counter medicines they may leave them in the First Aid Office where they can be administered by the First Aider. Pupils found in possession of over the counter medicines on site will have them confiscated and kept secure by the school. The pupil may be asked to turn out pockets and bags etc. to ascertain there is nothing else.

4. Pupils suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances, volatile substances, illegal drugs, NED's or having taken an over-dose of prescription or over the counter medicines.

If a member of staff is concerned that a pupil(s) may have taken any substance that potentially put their health at risk they should refer the matter to the behaviour support staff via the referral system. The matter will then be investigated by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The Head of Year and parents will be informed and the pupil taken home or for medical treatment as necessary.

5. Delivery of SME

As part of the Key Stage 3 PSE programme of study pupils are education in the dangers of substance misuse. Sessions are delivered to classes by professionals from Drug aid Cymru/ Choices. They offer a range of outreach sessions which take

a participative, informal approach to a range of substance misuse issues. Workshops typically last 60 minutes.

Sessions include:

Year 7 & 8: General Drugs Awareness 1: identifying the risk benefit ratio of e-cigarette's effects when compared with tobacco, increasing awareness of the effects of caffeine, safer use guidelines, with particular reference to energy drinks and dealing with the pressure to use these substances.

Year 9: Rate the Risk 1: reflecting on the factors that combined to create risk, identifying the immediate and broader effects of; cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis, solvents, Valium & NPS and rating their level of risk.

Year 7 & 8 Dedicated Alcohol Session 1: dispelling alcohol myths, identifying the basic health effects of alcohol use and practicing decision making

Year 9 - Dedicated Alcohol Session 2: Understanding Units of alcohol & factors effecting a person's limits

Years 10 and 11: Dedicated assemblies delivered by South Wales Police and/ or Drug aid Cymru/ Choices.

Years 12 and 13: Dedicated assemblies delivered by South Wales Police and/ or Drug aid Cymru/ Choices.

6. Partnership Working

The school works closely with external agencies, including the police and Drug aid Cymru to support and educate learners on substance misuse. These agencies work with the school to offer small groups and 1-1 support for pupils with an identified need.

Copies of this policy are available on our website, in policy folders on the school network and can be made available on request.

Date: June 2017

Review Date: June 2019

Review Date: June 2021

Next Policy Review Date: June 2025