

G4 School Substance Misuse Policy

Substance abuse is a nationwide problem, which we cannot ignore. The school is concerned at its effects, not only on the individual but also fellow pupils, the family and on the community at large. This policy sets out to recognise the responsibility of all members of the school community to make our school safe and secure from those risks.

There is no place for illegal substances in school and a 'zero tolerance' policy will be adopted. Illegal substances include all controlled drugs, alcohol, solvents and tobacco. The school is determined to ensure that any incidents of substance abuse on school premises, on the way to and from school and on organised school trips, will be treated as a most serious breach of school rules. The Headteacher and governors expect the full co-operation of all pupils, students, staff and parents or guardians in this matter.

It is school policy that all pupils undertake a programme that raises awareness of the harmful and long-term effects of substance misuse as recommended in the latest guidance from ACCAC and the National Assembly. This is effected through the schools programme of Personal, Social and Health Education as a cross-curricular topic. The school will also from time to time organise information meetings for parents in association with outside agencies. Where preventative work fails and pupils are found to be in possession of a prohibited substance of any kind in school the school will:

- Inform parents, seek their co-operation and if necessary counsel them about effective ways of solving the problem, including liaison with specialist agencies.
- Apply an appropriate sanction for breach of the school rules.
- Report breaches of the law to the police.
- All suspicions and allegations will be fully investigated and all parties will be informed

The Child Protection co-ordinator may need to make a referral to social services in accordance with all Wales guidance where the child is deemed to be at risk.

The school cooperates fully with the Police over all matters and will work in partnership with them during any investigations. This will include giving full access to all areas of the school site or allowing officers with sniffer dogs to tour the school in accordance with current police procedures. The Police and other relevant outside agencies will play an active part in the delivery of drugs education in the school.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

Pupils suspected of drug abuse, or showing evidence of drug abuse will be monitored closely. Where there is any evidence the parents will be notified without delay. Even where suspicions have not been confirmed with hard evidence parents will be contacted where senior staff feel that the balance of probabilities indicates that illegal substances are being used. In the case of such suspicions the school may seek the co-operation of parents with regard to random drug tests or searches.

Where pupils are found to be using illegal substances outside school, parents will be contacted. Where there is evidence that the pupil's behaviour in school is being affected parents will be required to seek medical treatment or expert advice from a specialist agency. The school will provide information about sources of such support. Fixed term exclusion will be used where this is deemed in the interest of the safety and good order of other pupils.

Pupils found in possession of illegal drugs and/or are known to be supplying illegal drugs to others will be immediately excluded from school under the normal policy for exclusion. After the full circumstances have been investigated the Headteacher will make a decision about the length of the exclusion or whether it to be permanent. **Anyone bringing an illegal substance into school should expect permanent exclusion to follow as the most likely sanction.** Any pupil supplying an illegal substance to another pupil whether or not money changes hands **will be** permanently excluded from the school. The definition of 'supplying' for the purposes of this policy is *'passing any quantity of any illegal substance to another person or sharing it with them.'*

A meeting of the Governor Discipline Committee will be convened to discuss **all** drug related exclusions of any duration. Parents, police and social services will be notified in all cases.

ALCOHOL

There is ample evidence that the effects of alcohol abuse are as serious as those of some other illegal substances. The Governors are strongly opposed to under age drinking and wish to demonstrate their strong disapproval via this policy. Pupils found in possession of alcohol, or seen to be under the effects of alcohol consumption will be sent home after parents have been contacted. Where this happens on a school trip parents will be contacted and may be required to arrange for the child's return home. Any additional expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the parents. On return to school the full circumstances of the incident will be investigated and school sanctions will be applied in accordance with the individual circumstances.

Parents will be advised about sources of counselling and advice and the pupil will be closely monitored if allowed to return to school.

Where it comes to the school's attention that a child is gaining access to alcohol outside school parents will be contacted. This may also be a matter for social services or child protection referral.

Pupils found above the legal age limit for purchasing alcohol or those found to be procuring such substance for under-age pupils will be punished. Under-age procurers will also be punished and their source of supply, where known, will be reported to the police.

SOLVENTS

The parents of pupils who are under the influence of solvent abuse will be contacted and the pupil will be excluded from school immediately. Other procedures will be as for illegal substances. The parents will be offered advice, and will be assisted to contact the appropriate specialist agency for counselling if they so wish, and on return the pupil will be counselled and monitored.

TOBACCO

St Cyres is a non-smoking school, pupils found in possession of cigarettes/tobacco or seen smoking will be reprimanded and receive school sanctions including after school detention. Parents will be notified, and the pupils will be monitored and receive appropriate advice and guidance.

Pupils above the legal age for purchasing cigarettes/tobacco found to be procuring such substance for under-age pupils will be punished. Under-age procurers will also be punished and their source of supply, where known, will be reported to the police. Frequent offenders will be punished with increasing levels of sanctions and expected to participate in smoking cessation programmes.

It should be noted that repeated breaches of this school rule can amount to gross defiance and can, in themselves give grounds for exclusion.

This is the policy of St Cyres School as approved by full Governing Body. The policy will be reviewed annually.

March 2005

