



## Substance Use and Misuse Policy

### Aims

At Brynmill Primary School we want our children to be happy and healthy. Substance misuse is a term encompassing all mind-altering substances, commonly referred to as "drugs", and includes other legal substances such as solvents, tobacco and alcohol. The school believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people about the consequences of drug misuse. We recognise the importance of providing a drugs education programme appropriate to each child's age and their physical, social and intellectual maturity. The school takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social Education of every pupil; all pupils will have equal access to the drugs education programme. This document outlines the legal and educational responsibilities of all staff at the school. Fundamental to the school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation are essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of disability, race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, marriage and civil partnership. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

### Definition

For the purpose of this policy 'drugs' and 'substances' are defined as: all legal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, illegal drugs and over-the-counter and prescription medicines. We accept that drugs and substances usually alter our body chemistry, feelings and perceptions.

### Statement of Policy

- The school condones neither the misuse of drugs (including tobacco) nor alcohol by pupils and students of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through its general ethos, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward.



### **Objectives in respect of substance use and misuse**

- To safeguard all pupils in the school.
- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. crime, HIV and Aids.
- To seek to minimise the risks that potential users face.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate support, including the relevant agencies.
- To create an atmosphere in which the use of substances on the school premises is unacceptable.

These objectives will be fulfilled through the taught curriculum (mainly through PSD/PSE and Science), the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra curricular activities. Education on substance issues forms an important and integral part of the PSE curriculum.

The school actively co-operates with outside agencies such as the Police, Social Services and Health & Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

In general our PSD/PSE aims to build children's self confidence, self-esteem and self-awareness; it seeks to encourage the development of good habits and how to make choices to promote a healthy, safe lifestyle. We teach the children how to make simple choices to improve health and well-being. The Foundation Phase PSE & Physical Development areas include:

- PSE: Dispositions & attitudes, self-confidence, esteem, control and care, making relationships, behaviour and community
- Physical Development: Health and body awareness, some understanding of what it means to keep our bodies healthy.
- In Foundation Phase & Key Stage 2 drugs education is delivered.

### **Organisation**

Drugs education will be delivered through the PSE and Science curriculum. Our school actively co-operates with the Police Liaison Service, school nurse, social services and other agencies and is committed to developing our contacts with the wider community. Staff training will be undertaken to ensure the best current practice is maintained.

### **Rights Respecting School**

At Brynmill Primary School, we follow and keep the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We believe that every



child in our school has the right to the 42 Articles. The Articles relevant to this policy are:-

- You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean, safe environment and information to help you stay well. **Article 24.**
- You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade. **Article 33.**
- You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them too. **Article 42.**

### **Health and Safety**

Our school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being if members of the school misuse drugs and/or alcohol, or if these substances are illegally supplied.

### **School Equality Plan**

We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of disability, race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, marriage and civil partnership. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

### **Parents/Carers**

As a school we share responsibility for the education of our young people with parents and carers. The school, parents and carers inform and involve each other through open and regular communication and cooperation to achieve the successful implementation of this policy.

### **Governors**

The governing body will be involved in drug education and drug-related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school. There is a nominated governor with responsibility for substance education and for incidents involving substances.

### **Staff Welfare**

Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will offer counseling to staff who may benefit, but it must be stressed that all staff must be fit and well to work in school and no substances can be seen on the premises.

### **Confidentiality**

Teachers and health professionals working within the classroom cannot offer or guarantee confidentiality.



**Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Schools Drug Education Policy will be regularly reviewed to assess its implementation and effectiveness. It will be done by the PSE Co-ordinator in consultation with the Headteacher, the staff and governors, at the time stated at the end of the policy unless necessary. The document and any relevant resources are available to parents and the wider community.

Summer Term 2016

<b>Approved by ----- Committee (date)</b>	
<b>Ratified by Governing Body (date)</b>	
<b>Scheduled for review</b>	
<b>Head teacher's signature</b>	
<b>Chair of Governors signature</b>	