

Radnor Primary School

Ysgol Gynradd Radnor



Radnor Road/Heol Radnor, Canton/Treganna
Cardiff/Caerdydd CF5 1RB
Tel/Ffon: 029 2038 7506
Email/Ebost: radnorprm@cardiff.gov.uk

Substance Use Education Policy

January 2025



STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
TREFADAETH GADARN | DYFODOL SICR



Healthy

Respectful

Inclusive

Resilient

Kind

Eco-friendly

School Substance Education Use Policy

Introduction

Radnor Primary School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable, since it represents a threat to our health and safety.

Radnor Primary School is committed to taking seriously its part in the education of children about Substance use. It supports the Wales strategy for tackling Substance use by helping children and young people resist Substance use in order to achieve their full potential in society. (Refer to WG guidance)

This policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff. It has been drawn up as a result of staff and governors' discussion.

Context

The policy was written with reference to the following Government initiatives and guidance:

- Working Together to Reduce Harm (2008-2018)
- Circular 107/2013 Guidance on Substance use Education (2013)

Reference was also made to the following Police guidance document:

- School Crime Beat: A protocol for police supporting schools with incidents of crime and disorder (2010).

The Substance use Policy stands alone complimenting the Safeguarding policy and relevant curriculum and school policies.

Aims of the policy

The aims of the Substance Use Education Policy are:

- To ensure that all members of the school know and understand the rules of the school, how they are expected to behave and the policy regarding Substance use incidents.
- To encourage and enable children to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle now, and in the future.
- To provide accurate information about the use and misuse of substances, including: tobacco, alcohol, illicit and illegal drugs and medicines, appropriate to the age of the pupils;
- To help parents / carers and children to identify what they need to learn about drugs and how they can take responsibility for their actions
- To enable children and staff to gain access to support structures, e.g counselling and treatment agencies

The School's Stance on drugs

Radnor Primary School defines the term 'Drugs' to mean all substances capable of being misused including alcohol, tobacco, medicines and volatile substances as well as illegal drugs.

All the drugs covered by this policy are not permitted to be brought to, sold, passed on, or obtained on school premises during the school day. This applies equally to school staff

and other adults working in and for the school, apart from alcohol at official school social events.

The nature of substance use education

The central aim of substance use education is to empower children to make healthy, responsible informed decisions about drugs. It will make an important contribution to stopping young people starting using a substance or delaying the onset of first use.

Empowering children to make informed choices will be achieved by:

- (a) Giving accurate information about drugs and their effects, the law, ways of keeping safe.
- (b) Exploring feelings, attitudes and values, discussing risk-taking and building up self-esteem;
- (c) Developing personal and social skills, such as communicating effectively, being assertive, making decisions, problem solving.

We regard substance use education as a whole school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum. We are committed to the four core purposes of the curriculum and developing healthy, confident individuals who:

- have secure values and are establishing their spiritual and ethical beliefs
- are building their mental and emotional well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy
- apply knowledge about the impact of diet and exercise on physical and mental health in their daily lives
- know how to find the information and support to keep safe and well
- take part in physical activity
- take measured decisions about lifestyle and manage risk
- have the confidence to participate in performance
- form positive relationships based upon trust and mutual respect
- face and overcome challenge
- have the skills and knowledge to manage everyday life as independently as they can
- and are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Radnor Primary School recognises that substance use education is not so much about drugs but more about the children themselves – their values and attitudes, their relationships, their problems, their risk-taking, their decisions, their sensation seeking. Therefore, children need to be engaged actively in the process which addresses knowledge, attitudes, values and behaviour.

It will form part of the Health and Wellbeing AoLE provision and will be taught across the curriculum by the classroom teacher. If appropriate the police school liaison officer will be invited to take part in a discussion about drugs and the law.

The main aims of Substance use Education

- To help children to be aware of the dangerous substances that might be around them at home and in the community – e.g. medicines, cigarettes, etc
- To give children sufficient information about substances so that they can keep themselves and others safe.
- To help children explore their attitudes and values and equip them with relevant skills so that they can make informed and healthy choices about substances.

- To clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents and carers and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities.
- To safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school.
- To enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

Implementation Procedures

Substance use Education will be carried out using The Primary Substance Use Education Toolkit.

This toolkit introduced to the learners to a character called Martha and her family. Martha has 6 stories with related activities.

The focus for each year group is as follows:

Stori	Approximate Year Group	Theme
Martha is ill	Reception	Medicines/Safety
Martha is thirsty	Year 1/Year 2	Safety/Safe drinks
Martha goes shopping	Year 3	Harmful chemicals/Warning symbols
Martha plays football	Year 4	Smoking
Martha goes to the cinema	Year 5	Alcohol, emergency services
Martha deals with pressure	Year 6	Energy drinks, legal and illegal drugs and peer pressure.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge and understanding, attitudes and values, and skills together and when learning and teaching are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible, the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents or carers. Important values related to substance use education to be promoted in the school are respect for self and others; independence of mind and the right to hold individual views; keeping oneself safe; looking after the body; honesty and truth; sensitivity to the environment

Important skills related to substance use education to be developed in the school are resisting pressure, analysing risk, decision making and problem solving.

Drug related incidents

Any drug related incident involving a pupil is taken seriously and each case dealt with within its own context. The immediate priority is the welfare of the child, however the following responses would

- If an illegal substance is found on school premises it will be locked away and the appropriate authority will be contacted to dispose of it.
- If a child is found with a cigarette, alcohol or any other substance, legal or illegal, it will be confiscated, the parents will be informed and further action discussed.
- If the child is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs the parents will be informed and medical advice may be obtained.
- If a child discloses that they are misusing drugs child protection procedures will be applied.
- If substances are being supplied on or near school premises the police will be contacted.
- When it is appropriate families will be referred to an information and counselling service.
- All Substance use will be recorded

Sanctions

The following is a list of sanctions that may be initiated when a pupil is involved in a drug or alcohol incident:

- Loss of privileges.
- Break and Lunch time detention.
- Monitoring of progress in class.
- Exclusion – any pupil found to be supplying substances, or believed to be supplying substances will be immediately excluded pending further enquiries.

Sanctions will always be used alongside support and will be in proportion with the offence.

Incidents will be recorded on a record of drug related incident form. These records will be kept by the Head Teacher in a Child Protection File. They will be treated as confidential records and only be accessible to staff on a need to know basis.

Location

A copy of the Substance use Policy is available on the school website and a paper copy can be requested from the School Office.

Monitoring and Review

We are aware of the need to review the school Substance use Policy regularly.

Appendix: (Welsh Government Circular 107/2013)

Radnor Primary School		Date of Incident	Date and time reported:	
Young Person(s) involved:		Names:	Reported by:	
			Home contact number:	
Description of Incident:				
Category of Incident	Action Taken	By Whom	Who contacted	
Categories				
1. Drug related litter	2. Possession	3. Supply	4. Under the influence	5. Non-learner/member
Name/Description of substance:	Amount/Size:	Removed by:		Where retained:
Signed: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____		Signed: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____		
Contacts	Contact name and number	Contact made by	Time and date contact made	Enquiry/Referral (Appointment made)
Parents/Carers				
Police				
Ambulance				
Other health professional				
Social services duty team				
Environmental Health				
Education department				
Drug support agency				
Other				
OUTCOME:				
Attach any details of meetings/actions/plans as appropriate				
Signed: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____		Signed: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____		

