



Castle Park Primary School

Substance Misuse Information for Parents

Substance Misuse is a problem within society and schools are not excluded from this. We are very aware that concerns do not just relate to illegal substances. We must maintain vigilance and an open dialogue with pupils in order to educate them to protect themselves.

As a parent/carer we hope you will help us in our duty to protect all our pupils. If we need to speak to you and your child about substance misuse nobody within our school will judge you, or accuse you, we simply need to discuss the facts and decide whether your family may need some extra help.

Within this leaflet we have outlined some of the standard procedures that staff **MUST** follow.

When school/setting staff have concerns for a child, the Head Teacher will usually discuss this with the parent/carer, but in some circumstances this will not be possible and Police or Social Services may be called instead.

The pupil's safety is our primary concern and information may be shared with other agencies if we feel a pupil is at risk.

At our school we value our children and their futures. With this in mind we have designed all our policies to keep our pupils as safe as possible.

As a parent/carer of our pupils, you have a vital role to play. This school is part of your community and you are very important in helping us keep pupils safe. This leaflet will hopefully explain our procedures and your role within them.

Castle Park Primary School has a responsibility to educate our pupils so that their actions are based on knowledge and accurate information, to enable them to have control over their lifestyles.

Our Substance Misuse policy covers:

Alcohol

Tobacco including e-cigarettes & vaping pens

Illegal Drugs – such as heroin, cocaine, MDMA/ ecstasy, amphetamines, LSD and cannabis.

New Psychoactive Substances

Prescription only medications – such as tranquilizers

Over the counter medicines – such as preparations containing codeine.

Volatile substances – such as aerosol propellants, butane, solvents, glues and nitrous oxide.

Staff **will**:

Assess if there is a medical emergency.

Contact the Head Teacher or Designated Senior Person for Child Protection (CP) without delay.

Seize and retain the substance concerned and transfer it to the Head Teacher or CP Designate.

Make early decisions around contacting parents/carers or other agencies.

Ensure that written records are maintained of any incidents.

Have discussions with pupils and their parents/carers around support available.

Staff **will not**:

Focus on the disciplinary aspect of substance misuse on school premises.

Behave in an accusatory manner towards the pupil.

Ask questions that may interfere with a possible criminal investigation.

Discuss the allegation other than with designated staff.

Promise to keep secrets.

None of these procedures are aimed at upsetting or distressing you as parents/carers. They are designed to address at your child's needs.

The Head Teacher will **not** ask parent/carers before calling Social Services if:

The parent/carer knew of the concerns and did not protect the child

The parent/carer is the cause of concern

The parent/carer would not be able to discuss the concern

As a parent/carer, you play a vital role in the life of the school, especially when it comes to ensuring all our pupils are safeguarded and protected. As a school we ask that you as parents/carers:

Talk to your children about risk taking behaviour and keeping safe.

Talk to staff about any concerns you have for your child

Remember that the school **MUST** share concerns about your child

The school will NOT judge you, but they may have to share difficult information

The school MUST prioritise the safety and wellbeing of pupils, they cannot keep secrets from other agencies.

Parents/carers and pupils should be aware that they are able to approach any member of staff and safely confide a substance misuse concern. The school will seek to provide support and information, and will ensure confidentially provided there are no Safeguarding concerns to any child. Further information and support is available from:

All-Wales School Liaison Core Programme: www.schoolbeat.org

Drug and Alcohol Helpline Wales:
www.dan247.org.uk
0800 6335588

FRANK: www.talktofrank.com
0300 123 660

Gwent N-gage (Under 18s)
www.choices.cymru
0333 320 2751

GDAS: Gwent Drug and Alcohol Services (18+) www.gdas.wales
0333 999 3577
01291 635 355 (Chepstow)

Help Me Quit: www.helpmequit.wales
0333 320 2219