

# Darland High School Substance Misuse Policy

February 2024

## Statement of Policy on Substance Use and Misuse.

*(The word substance is taken to include those that are legal, such as alcohol, vapes, tobacco and solvents, legal highs, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs eg cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, cocaine and LSD)*

### Darland High School

- Condone neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances;
- Is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being;
- Acknowledges the importance of its role in the welfare of young people, and through the PSE and SAP assembly programmes and the general ethos of the school we will seek to inform and educate pupils on the consequences of drug use and misuse;
- 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;
- Shares the responsibility for the education of its pupils with their parents/carers, and will keep them informed and involved at all times;
- Believes that the possession and use of substances on the way to and from school, in school, or during the school day, or on school activities, is inappropriate. None of the substances covered in this policy are permitted to be bought, sold or otherwise obtained on school premises, or during the school day, including when pupils are on school activities or visits. Individual exceptions are made where individual pupils need to take prescribed medicines, where appropriate.
- Follows the guidance of Welsh government Health chiefs in banning the use of vapes by pupils. Consequently, all vaping paraphernalia will be confiscated.
- Considers that the possession and or consumption of high caffeine content 'Energy Drinks' is inadvisable for young people and that consequently, students are banned from bringing such drinks to school, energy drinks will be confiscated.
- Darland High School is a no-smoking site – all smoking paraphernalia will be confiscated.

### Educational Aims in respect of Substance Use and Misuse.

In line with the overall aims of the school, Darland High School will: -

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes, and developing and practising personal skills;
- Provide accurate information about substances;
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS; (see Sex and Relationships Education Policy)
- Enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support. These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the PSE programme, assemblies, the taught curriculum and extracurricular activities.
- The school actively cooperates with external agencies such as the Police, Social Services, Youth Service, Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.
- Pupils who are known smokers are actively encouraged to attend Smoking Cessation sessions which are facilitated by external agencies.

### Observation, Disclosure and Referral.

**In the event of an emergency the safety of the pupils is of paramount concern and First Aid measures should be taken before any other action is contemplated.**

The type of substance used, together with the nature and degree of its use, has to be considered in order to determine an appropriate response. The response of the school to any suspicion or evidence of use, misuse, possession or supply of drugs as defined above must ensure that: -

- The matter is referred to a member of the SLT as soon as possible.
- Legal requirements are fulfilled
- The welfare of the pupil/pupils is given paramount consideration
- Records and correspondence relating to the individual are kept confidential; information concerning an individual pupil is not disclosed to anyone except appropriate staff without the parents' consent.
- Confidentiality should be preserved as far as possible.
- Disclosure should be preceded by informing pupils of the possible need to involve others - promises of absolute confidentiality should not be made.
- Where disclosure indicates immediate danger to the pupil or others confidentiality should not be maintained.
- Where disclosure reveals a criminal offence (theft to obtain money for drugs purchases, possession, use or supply of an illegal substance) confidentiality should not be maintained and is an inadmissible defence in a court of law. The police must be informed.
- However open relationships are between pupils and teachers, and teachers and the Headteacher, one still has the authority over the other.
- All staff should be reminded of their responsibility in loco parentis to respond to situations as reasonable parents would for their child; the final judgement of what is appropriate rests with the Headteacher.

#### **Procedures for dealing with pupils found to be smoking tobacco**

The school campus is a no-smoking zone in accordance with LA policy. Smoking by staff or students will not be tolerated on campus. In addition, in accordance with the School Transportation Act of 2009, the school reserves the right to take disciplinary action against pupils found to be smoking on school buses, designated bus stops and around the entrance to the school.

Where pupils are found to be smoking the following procedures shall be followed.

- Cigarettes and smoking paraphernalia will be confiscated (to be collected by parent / carer)
- Pupil placed in after school detention or lunchtime detention.
- Pupil may be offered counselling in smoking cessation session, run external agencies.

#### **Procedures for dealing with physical evidence, disclosure or where a pupil is thought to be under the influence of drugs.**

- The school reserves the right to ask any pupil who, after a preliminary investigation involving senior staff, is thought to be in possession of illicit substances, to empty their pockets and bags. Should a pupil refuse to do this, intervention by the police will be sought. It is far more likely therefore, that when the school has reasonable suspicion that a pupil is in possession of illegal drugs, the police will be asked to come to the school to perform a search before the pupil is notified.
- The School may not detain a pupil without their consent for the purposes of searching for drugs (or stolen goods)
- Parents should be contacted by Senior Leadership Team as soon as possible after the assessment and first action. An interview should be offered to enable the circumstances of the incident to be explained fully, questions to be asked, and support and advice given. Where their child has been excluded adherence to the exclusion policy must be followed.
- If illegal drugs are found on the school premises, they will be stored in the school safe to await collection by the police.

Secondary action is concerned with establishing the degree of seriousness and culpability of a pupil's actions and the extent and involvement of others in order to decide appropriate disciplinary action.

**Pupils supplying illegal substances on school premises will be permanently excluded.** Any other involvement with legal or illegal substances falling short of supply will be considered in context, based on LEA and Welsh Assembly Government guidance.

**Involvement of Police.** It is our policy that if a pupil is found to be in possession, or to have been witnessed using illegal substances either at school or on the way to and from school, the Police Liaison Officer and / or the Community Beat Officers will be involved in counselling the pupil.

**Ascertaining need for and offering counselling.** This should be offered and where accepted arranged through the relevant agency.

**Recording:** A written report must be made of the incident by the member of staff investigating the incident. Copies should be sent to the appropriate Education officer and Chair of Governors.

**Media:** Any involvement with the media should be made by the **Headteacher only** who will treat any enquiries with respect and be aware of deadlines-

