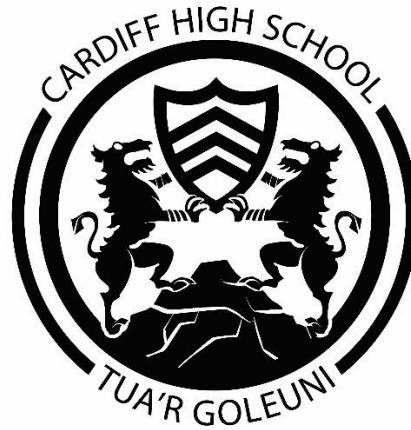


CARDIFF HIGH SCHOOL



# Illegal Substances

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## Policy 4.4

## CARDIFF HIGH SCHOOL

### ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

#### Introduction

Cardiff High School aims to help all students take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. Substance misuse is an increasing social problem that can have disastrous consequences for individuals, families and the school community. Cardiff High School is committed to the health, safety and welfare of students and will take action to safeguard their well-being as well as providing pastoral support, advice and education about drugs and substance misuse as appropriate. The school ***will not*** condone the misuse of substances and the possession or supply of illegal drugs.

#### Aims:

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, staff and visitors
- To clarify legal responsibilities and protocols
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To define the disciplinary procedure against those who have any involvement with illegal drugs or substance misuse while they are under the care and control of the school

#### Managing Drug Related Incidents: Routine Arrangements

##### □ Medicines

The school has procedures for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Our practice is in line with guidance as recommended by Welsh Government

##### □ Alcohol

Pupils are not allowed to bring alcohol on the school site. Parents and visitors under the influence of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school

##### □ Smoking/Vaping

The school is a no smoking site - indoors and outdoors, including school vehicles - at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and a sanction will be put in place

□ **Solvents**

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised when they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvent-based products.

□ **Illegal drugs/Legal Highs**

No illegal drugs or legal highs are permitted to be brought on to, or used on school premises

□ **E- Cigarettes/Shisha**

Pupils are not allowed to bring either e-cigarettes or shisha cigarettes on the school site

### **Incidents**

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- A student who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug
- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises – either for or without payment
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of drug possession supply or drug use
- Reports of drug possession supply or drug use

### **Guiding principles**

- Evidence of drug use or possession will result in exclusion; this may be a permanent exclusion
- The designated member of staff is responsible for investigating and coordinating the management of drug related incidents; providing sources of support and, where appropriate, liaising with external agencies

### **Procedures □ Medical Emergencies**

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of harm, urgent medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the student's safety.

□ **Individuals in Possession of Drugs**

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police and immediately hand over the drug. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary.

□ **Investigation of Drug Related Incidents**

- Students suspected of being involved in, or having knowledge of, a drug related incident will be interviewed by the designated member of staff.

- Where practical, the investigations will take place in the presence of a second member of staff
- Students will be requested to hand in illegal substances and will be required to agree to a bag search if necessary. Should students refuse to agree to a bag search, the Police may be called
- Parents will normally be informed that an interview has taken place within the investigation unless the grounds for concern are very slim
- All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. Investigation reports will be stored securely in the student's SRF and copies retained in the Deputy Headteacher's office
- There is no legal obligation to inform the police, but it is the school's policy to inform the police if there is reasonable evidence of possession or supply of suspected illegal drugs on school premises.

#### □ **Support For Students**

Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral/nurture system and signposting to external agencies. This does not mean, however that the very difficult decision to permanently exclude a student can be avoided.