

**Ysgol Maes Hyfryd  
Flintshire  
Substance and Alcohol Misuse Education  
Policy**



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**Policy Written June 2018**

Policy approved by the Governing Body on: July 2018

Policy will be reviewed by June 2022  
(At least once every four years 2022 or earlier if required)

## **1. Introduction**

Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is an inclusive school where we focus on the well-being and progress of every child and where all members of our community are of equal worth. Maes Hyfryd promotes respect for difference and diversity through the school's vision, ethos and values, it underpins all we do on a day to day basis.

We try to;

- Ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect.
- We want to make sure that our school is a safe, secure and stimulating place for everyone.
- We recognise that people have different needs, and we understand that treating people equally does not always involve treating them all exactly the same.
- We recognise that for all of our pupils' extra support is needed to help them to achieve and be successful.
- We try to make sure that people from different groups are consulted and involved in our decisions, for example through talking to pupils and parents/carers, through our School Council and external support agencies
- We aim to make sure that no-one experiences harassment, less favourable treatment or discrimination because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief; sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

## **2. Our School and Community**

### **2.1 Our Vision**



Skills  
Salliau



Wellbeing  
Lles



Attitude  
Agwedd



Knowledge  
Gwybodaeth

We ensure that every pupil reaches their full potential in the four aspects of our vision and in school life. Drugs education within Ysgol Maes Hyfryd aims to support and address the four aspects of our vision within a holistic, cross curricular approach and discrete lessons

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## **2.2 Aims**

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and education and ensure it is appropriate to our pupils' needs. The policy provides information and guidance about drug education

The Drugs Education Policy has been developed with reference to Department for Education advice and guidance: DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (DfE-000012012) which is non-statutory and was produced to help answer some of the most common questions raised by school staff in this area.

The drugs education of YMH pupils takes into account the statutory requirements within the National Curriculum Science Order, the non-statutory framework for PSE at Key Stages 3 and 4 and the statutory Citizenship Programme of Study at Key Stages 3 and 4. This policy reflects the ethos of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd as a rights-respecting school.

Aims of this policy: -

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils
- To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- To ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs and the drug education programme complement the values and ethos of the school
- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme
- To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

## **2.3 Profile**

Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is based in Flintshire, North Wales It provides a high quality specialist provision catering for pupils with a wide range of severe and complex needs. All pupils will be given the opportunity of learning in a caring, stimulating environment. Staff and governors are committed to providing for all of our pupils an education of the highest possible quality whilst also catering for varied individual needs where we build on skills needed for their future place in society. In order to provide the pupils with these opportunities we invest a great deal of time and positive commitment into the curriculum development and training, pupil inspired specialist resources and raising standards. All school Governors and employees have responsibility for promoting drugs education and adhering to the policy.

The delivery of Drugs Education at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd takes account of all the afore mentioned factors and consequently some elements can be taught as whole class sessions whereas other elements are tailored to individual student needs. Ysgol Maes Hyfryd delivers its curriculum through a sensory department – they follow the informal and semi-formal curriculum and the three key stages. The curriculum is differentiated and addressed as appropriate taking into account age and ability.

YMH: Substance and Alcohol Misuse Education Policy

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### **3. Statutory requirements**

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral and PSE responsibilities. At Ysgol Maes Hyfryd we deliver this education as part of our PSE lessons. Drugs education is clearly referenced in the long term planning for PSE in the Autumn term topics Health and Well being (health matters).

The drugs education of pupils at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd takes into account the statutory requirements within the National Curriculum Science Order.

At Ysgol Maes Hyfryd we teach Drugs Education as set out in this policy.

### **4. Policy Development**

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

- Review – a member of staff (PSE - Coordinator) pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
- Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
- Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to review the policy
- Pupil consultation – we took the basis of the policy to school council and investigated what exactly pupils want from their Drugs education
- Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with Governors and ratified

### **5. Definition**

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime is: “A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”. Here, “drugs” and “drug education” is used to refer to:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive drugs ('legal highs')
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

Ysgol Maes Hyfryd regards Drugs Education as an important part of a broad and balanced curriculum. “Drugs” are taken to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs, and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and any other substances covered by the 1971

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misuse of drugs act; psychoactive substances act 2016, or that is subject to a temporary class drug order(TCDO). The school prohibits all substances having psychoactive effects on the brain: depressants, stimulants, cannabinoids, and hallucinogens.

Personal and Social Education (incorporating drugs education) is a lifelong learning process which involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes towards drugs and their use. PSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

Drugs education involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values and the stance we take towards drugs, health and the needs of pupils. The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs in Ysgol Maes Hyfryd School is not acceptable. The school is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. In providing drugs education and responding to incidents involving drugs, our first concern is the pastoral care and health and safety of pupils.

**Drugs education is not about the promotion of drug activity.**

## **6. Delivery of Drugs Education**

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. Drug education at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is consistent with the values and ethos of the school and laws of society as well as being appropriate to the age, ability and maturity of the students, and relevant to their particular circumstances. Ysgol Maes Hyfryd has a very extensive curriculum that provides entitlement for all through its commitment to equality of opportunity. The components of the National Curriculum are designed to be accessible by all pupils, the school delivers its curriculum through routes for learning (sensory department) up to National Curriculum Level. Ysgol Maes Hyfryd looks to provide integration opportunities into Flint High and other schools as necessary when appropriate to support the needs of our pupils.

Ysgol Maes Hyfryd delivers drugs education by offering discrete lessons as part of the PSE and Science curriculum in addition addressing any issues as they may arise. YMH has regard for the Government's Drug Strategy 2010 that ensures that school staff have the information, advice and power to:

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the FRANK service;
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

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The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community. Teachers will need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils need to receive up to date, relevant and accurate information as well as support.

The context of the curriculum aims to: -

Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs.

The rules and laws relating to drugs.

The impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities

Local and national use

The complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs

Enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences

Ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up to date information as sources of help. This includes local and national helplines (including FRANK for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and Drinkline for alcohol), youth and community services and drug services. These sources are used in addition to the school's own drug and alcohol education

Develop students' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including - promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles including: -

- assessing, avoiding and managing risk
- communicating effectively
- resisting pressures
- finding information, help and advice
- devising problem-solving and coping strategies
- developing and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves

Further details of the programme of study can be found in the PSE long term planning specific detail about approach and content can be obtained from the school.

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## **6.1 Strategies for Teaching**

It is the responsibility of all staff to support students in the understanding of drugs education and the risks involved. Strategies for teaching Drugs education at YMH will be tailored to individual student needs and may include the following

- ground rules will be agreed and adhered to between staff and students
- a professional distance will be maintained by staff
- 1:1 personalised work
- Small group
- Class group
- Role play
- Visiting theatre companies
- Videos
- Visiting professional

Attention is paid to the physical and emotional maturity of the students as they progress through the school and more formal lessons may take place on an individual or group basis. Students may be drawn from different age groupings, staff will be kept aware of the programme as it progresses, so that they are able to provide support to the students when necessary.

## **6.2 Working with others**

Elements of Drug education may be provided by others from the wider community. These may include health professionals, social workers and youth workers. These visitors will only be invited as part of a planned programme and they will be made aware of the school's policy and abide by it. YMH staff will remain with the pupils during the delivery of any outside agency work. If parents have made arrangements for the child to have individual lessons with other professionals, parents will be asked to provide the school with written permission before the lessons take place on school premises. The nurses will work within their nursing professional code of conduct.

## **6.3 Discrimination during the delivery of SRE**

The school is opposed to all forms of discrimination based on person's age, disability, race, religion or belief, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, family background and/or language. Any form of harassment and discriminatory language and behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. All staff will remain vigilant and deal with any incidents promptly and sensitively using procedures outlined in the Anti-Bullying Policy, which clearly outlines the course of action in such circumstances. Any racist incidents will be reported to Flintshire County Council.

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## **7. Roles and responsibilities**

### **7.1 The governing board**

The governing board will:

- Approve the Drugs Education policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.
- Meet with relevant staff members to discuss any issues and how these are being addressed.
- Ensure they are familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document
- Attend appropriate training as necessary

### **7.2 The Headteacher and SMT**

The headteacher and SMT are responsible for ensuring that Drugs Education is taught consistently across the school.

### **7.3 The Subject Coordinator**

At Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Drugs education sits within PSE and Science as such the PSE and Science subject leader –provides the long term planning for the class teacher to deliver to their class. The PSE and Science coordinator will: -

- ensure that the long term planning includes the relevant drugs education areas / lesson outcomes
- identify areas for the development of Drugs education within the school development plan
- coordinate the purchase and maintenance of resources.
- review inset needs of all staff and provide suitable training opportunities with the support of the Headteacher.
- disseminate relevant information from any courses to all members of staff.
- keep up to date with any new developments or initiatives – where possible the PSE coordinator will attend the termly PSE – Healthy Schools network meetings.
- develop the long term plan ensuring a whole school approach to the planning recording and assessment.
- ensure that the drugs education policy is reviewed every four years and earlier if necessary.

### **7.4 Staff**

All school staff are expected to have regard to this document and to work to achieve the set out objectives. Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering drugs education in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes towards the safety message of drugs education



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- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching drugs education. Staff who have concerns about teaching drugs education are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

### **Confidentiality**

There may occasions when students share information with staff. Staff must remind students that they are not able to keep information which may be harmful to themselves or others but must follow the clear guidelines of the safe guarding/ child protection policy.

## **7.5 Pupils**

Pupils are expected to engage fully in drugs education and, when discussing issues related to drugs, treat others with respect and sensitivity

## **8. Training**

Staff are provided with continuing professional development training throughout the school calendar, this will be through staff meetings and upon individual requests for training. Areas identified in staff school development interviews and the school development plan will be acted upon accordingly. The school PSE coordinator will attend termly network meetings and disseminate any information / training as required.

The headteacher and coordinator may also invite visitors from outside the school, to provide support and training to staff teaching drugs education.

## **9. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of Drugs Education is monitored by Emma Keyworth (PSE coordinator) and Noel Fitzgerald (Deputy Head, Curriculum coordinator) through:

Planned work scrutinies, monitoring planning, learning walks and lesson observations.

Pupils' development in Drug Education is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems and fed back to the deputy head at the end of a unit of work. Assessment and record keeping will take place via the student's individual work files and teacher assessment – referencing the learning objectives from the lesson. The sensory department will use their routes for learning assessment. Aspects of progress and delivery of Drugs Education will be reported on in the students' school report.

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## **10. Equality**

As an employer and provider of services Ysgol Maes Hyfryd will not unlawfully discriminate on grounds of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity or on the grounds of Welsh language.

All pupils, their parents and guardians, volunteers, staff and school governors are valued and will be treated with dignity and respect. We will not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

We will work across our school community to ensure our commitment to equality and fairness is shared and take steps to ensure that our school is accessible, welcoming and inclusive.

Ysgol Maes Hyfryd values the individuality of all students and is committed to giving each one every opportunity to achieve the highest standards. The expectations of all staff are high and students are encouraged to have a positive attitude and to achieve the best that they possibly can, both in and out of the classroom.

Our teaching strategies enhance learning and participation in a broad and balanced curriculum. All lessons and out-of-school activities and school trips are fully inclusive. We use language that does not offend, and we make staff and students aware of the importance of language. Our resources contain positive images of people with disabilities, and students are able to improve their understanding through activities such as learning to use Makaton. Information can be made available in alternative formats that are clear and user-friendly, as required. This will include Braille, audiotape, and large print, or it may be transmitted orally, or through lip-speaking or sign language, or through a recognised symbol system, or through ICT.

The School aims to be inclusive and actively seeks to remove barriers to learning and participation. Therefore, equality of opportunity must be a reality for all our students.

## **11. Welsh Language Impact**

Wherever possible and appropriate, we will use the Welsh language as a natural part of all aspects discussed in this policy document.

## **12. Links to other policies**

Positive Behaviour (Anti-Bullying Policy)  
PSE Policy  
Sexting Policy  
SRE Policy  
Appropriate use of ICT policy  
Equality Policy

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Child protection / Safeguarding Policy  
CSE Policy  
Citizenship Policy  
Health and Safety Policy  
Implementation of Medicines Policy

**Appendix A**

Useful References:

'Drug Strategy 2010 2010 HM Government Reducing demand, restricting Supply, building recovery: Supporting people to live a drug free life'

'DfE and ACPO Sept 2012 DfE drug advice for schools'

'Smoking, drinking and April 2012 DfE use survey - 2009'

PSE Key Stage 3 & 4 PoS Nov 2011 DfE (non-statutory programme of study)

Science and Citizenship Nov 2011 DfE Key Stage 3 & 4 PoS

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**Appendix B – Useful Organisations**

**Addaction** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: [www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk) Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Concern** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk) Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

**ASH** (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk) Website: [www.ash.org.uk](http://www.ash.org.uk)

**Children's Legal Centre** operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: [clc@essex.ac.uk](mailto:clc@essex.ac.uk) Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

**Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk/](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/)

**Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

**Drug Education Forum** – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: [www.drugeducationforum.com/](http://www.drugeducationforum.com/)

**DrugScope** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: [info@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk) Website: [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk)

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**Flintshire SORTED** – Specific help to the school - Some PSE sessions but focus is targeted educational workshops. Excellent resource for supporting students. Also provides staff training.

**FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com) Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org) Website: [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

**National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

**Family Lives** - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

**Re-Solv** (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: [information@re-solv.org](mailto:information@re-solv.org) Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

**Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: [www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk](http://www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk)

**Youth Offending Teams** – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

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