



## Substance Misuse Policy

	Reviewed:	1/9/25
	Next Review:	Autumn 2026
Mr M. Frew	Chair of Governors	<i>Morrison W. Frew.</i>
Miss K. Lawlor	Headteacher	<i>K S Lawlor</i>

This policy ensures compliance with the Welsh Government guidance document <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/guidance-for-substance-misuse-education.pdf> and supports the school's commitment to safeguarding and pupil well-being.

## 1. Policy Statement

Gowerton School is committed to promoting the health, safety, and well-being of all pupils, staff, and the wider school community. The school recognises that substance misuse can have a detrimental impact on pupils' academic performance, personal development, and overall health. This policy aims to prevent substance misuse through education, support, and clear procedures for dealing with incidents.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils, staff, and visitors to the school premises. It covers:

- The possession, use, or supply of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful substances.
- Misuse of prescription drugs, solvents, and other intoxicating substances.
- Actions that occur on the school premises, during school hours, or while participating in school activities off-site.

## 3. Aims

- To educate pupils about the dangers of substance misuse.
- To support pupils in making informed choices about their health and well-being.
- To create a safe and supportive environment that discourages the misuse of substances.
- To outline clear procedures for dealing with substance misuse incidents.
- To work with external agencies to provide appropriate support to pupils affected by substance misuse.

## 4. Definitions

- **Substance misuse:** The use of illegal drugs, alcohol, solvents, prescription drugs, or other intoxicating substances in a manner that could harm health or well-being.
- **Illegal drugs:** Substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.
- **Alcohol and tobacco:** Legal substances which are not permitted on school premises for pupils under 18, and their misuse is discouraged.

## 5. Education and Prevention

The school will:

- Include substance misuse education in the Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) curriculum.

- Provide pupils with accurate information about the risks associated with substance misuse.
- Foster an environment where pupils feel supported in seeking help if they are concerned about substance use.
- Train staff to recognise the signs of substance misuse and respond appropriately.

## 6. Support for Pupils

- The school encourages pupils to seek help if they are concerned about their own or others' substance use.
- Pastoral staff (Gofal) will provide confidential advice and support.
- Referrals to external agencies, such as counselling services or substance misuse support organisations, will be made where appropriate.

## 7. Incident Management

When an incident of substance misuse is suspected or reported, the following steps will be taken:

- 1. Initial Response:**
  - Any immediate risks to health or safety will be addressed (e.g., calling emergency services if required).
  - Staff will gather factual information about the incident, ensuring sensitivity and confidentiality.
- 2. Investigation:**
  - A member of the senior leadership team will lead the investigation.
  - Parents/carers will be informed promptly.
  - A pupil's well-being will be prioritised while considering disciplinary actions.
- 3. Consequences and Disciplinary Actions:**
  - Possession, use, or distribution of illegal substances on school grounds will lead to disciplinary measures, which may include exclusion, in line with the school's behaviour policy and the Welsh Government Exclusions Guidance for Schools - <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-04/240410-exclusion-from-schools-and-pupil-referral-units.pdf>
- 4. Confiscation and Disposal:**
  - Any substances found on school premises will be confiscated and, where appropriate, handed over to the police.
  - Staff will record incidents following the school's safeguarding and record-keeping procedures.

## 8. Involvement of External Agencies

The school will work closely with local authorities, law enforcement, and health services to manage substance misuse incidents. Where appropriate, referrals to specialist agencies (e.g., counselling services, youth services) will be made to ensure the well-being of the pupil involved.

## **9. Staff Responsibilities**

- All staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with this policy and implementing it consistently.
- Designated staff members, including the Designated Safeguarding Person (Mr D McGinley, Senior Deputy Headteacher), will take the lead on any substance misuse-related incidents.
- Staff will receive training on recognizing and managing substance misuse and related issues.

## **10. Parental Involvement**

- The school will work in partnership with parents/carers to educate pupils about substance misuse.
- Parents will be informed if their child is involved in an incident, and the school will work collaboratively with them to provide support.

## **11. Monitoring and Evaluation**

- This policy will be reviewed regularly, and the effectiveness of the school's approach to substance misuse will be monitored.
- Feedback from staff, pupils, parents, and external agencies will be considered in the review process.

## **12. Equal Opportunities**

- The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils are treated fairly and with respect, regardless of race, gender, religion, disability, or other characteristics. The school will provide appropriate support to pupils with additional needs or those from vulnerable groups.

## **13. Communication of Policy**

This policy will be made available to all pupils, staff, and parents via the school's website and will be included in the staff and pupil handbooks. Regular reminders about the policy will be communicated during assemblies and through the school's communication channels.