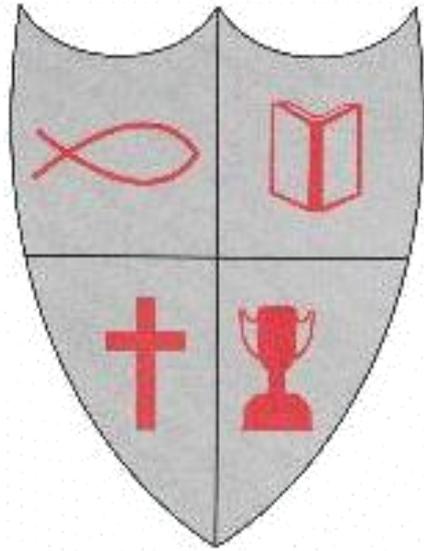


Drugs Policy



Aughnacloy Primary
School

Aughnacloy Primary is one of only a few schools in Northern Ireland to have received the Rights Respecting School Award Level 2. This is an initiative which involves taking the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into account when planning and considering ethos and practice.

Article 33 UNCRC (Drug abuse): *Governments should use all means possible to protect children from the use of harmful drugs and from being used in the drug trade.*

In Aughnacloy Primary we believe that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also effects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure each child's health and safety while in our care and we strive to promote their personal and social well-being. The policy provides a focus for the school to consider how drugs education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of key staff. From a wider perspective, it gives parents and the local community an opportunity for involvement in drug issues.

This policy forms an integral part of pastoral care in our school and the teaching of PDMU

RATIONALE

We recognise that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture.

Aughnacloy Primary wishes to promote the development of the "whole child" which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health, by equipping our pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitude and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare for adulthood.

Drug education therefore forms an integral part of our curriculum.

AIMS

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health.
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect.
- To build pupils' self-esteem.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug abuse, and the risks involved.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals.

OBJECTIVES

Drugs Education should enable pupils to develop a knowledge and understanding about drugs and drug issues, as well as the skills needed to cope with challenges they will encounter.

Pupils should be able to:

- ✓ Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests.
- ✓ Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices.
- ✓ Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues.
- ✓ Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure.
- ✓ Develop a competence in challenging attitudes and patterns of behaviour associated with drug misuse.
- ✓ Develop self-discipline.
- ✓ Understand what is meant by 'a drug' and the definition of 'addiction'.
- ✓ Understand how some drugs affect the body.
- ✓ Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles.
- ✓ Recognise potential drug exploitation and how to take avoiding action.
- ✓ Be aware of the current drug culture and the effect of advertising campaigns.

These objectives are closely linked with our school pastoral care policies and should not be seen in isolation.

DRUGS EDUCATION IN CONTEXT

'A drugs education programme is just one part of a whole school response to drug misuse. It should provide opportunities for pupils to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others, and to make informed and responsible choices within the context of a healthy lifestyle' (Drugs: Guidance for Schools in NI 2004)

The programme of education is integrated within the Personal Development Strand of the Curriculum.

A life skills approach to drug prevention is essential and within the programme pupils are taught about raising self-esteem, self-confidence and assertiveness to prepare them for making informed decisions about drug use, the focus being on knowledge, social skills attitudes and values.

DRUGS EDUCATION IS A WHOLE STAFF ISSUE

In Aughnacloy Primary the staff are regularly updated on changes to policy, which influence their delivery of the curriculum. Whenever possible staff will receive in service training on drugs issues. The Designated Teacher for Drugs (Mrs Clarke) will ensure that the appropriate themes are covered under Personal Development for each year group

It is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to include drugs education in other subject areas if it forms part of the N.I Curriculum and to spend an adequate amount of time delivering drugs education.

DRUGS EDUCATION

Drugs education will be an integral part of the school's Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) programme, incorporating the personal and social development of pupils in their environment. Aspects covered will be relevant to age and will take account of present knowledge and experience of drugs. The classrooms will have an atmosphere in which pupils can freely contribute to discussion, safe in the knowledge that the comments, ideas and feelings of the group are valued.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Aughnacloy Primary may use outside agencies eg PSNI to help deliver the drug education programme providing the following criteria are met:

- The content and delivery of the programme has been jointly agreed.
- The programme and methods of delivery are consistent with the aims and objectives outlined in this policy.
- The principal has given her approval for the use of the outside agency.
- The staff from the agency have been vetted in relation to Child Protection.
- The agency is familiar with the school's drug policy and is prepared to adhere to it.

The resources used are appropriate to the age range and maturity of the pupils.

- The visitor (s) to the school are clear that confidentiality cannot be maintained and any disclosure which might suggest that a pupil is at risk must be passed to the designated teacher for drugs.
- The teacher will always be present when a visitor to the school is taking a class.

LINKS WITH PARENTS, THE COMMUNITY AND THE POLICE

Parents play a vital role in the prevention of drug misuse. This is especially so with the drugs education programme. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in homework tasks and discuss drug issues with their child whenever possible.

Parents are also made aware of the school's procedures for dealing with drug related incidents as the policy along with procedures is displayed on the school website. The school endeavours to work closely with the local community to help reduce the number of drug related incidents. Aughnacloy Primary has developed good working relationships with the local police. This helps to ensure that if a drug related incident is reported, it will be dealt with in a professional and discrete manner, and in keeping the best interests of the child concerned in mind.

THE ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

Mrs Clarke is responsible for the co-ordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse. Her role includes:

- Oversight of co-ordination of planning of curricular provision
- Implementing procedures as outlined in this policy for dealing with an incident
- Receiving any substance and associated paraphernalia found in school.
- Regularly updating staff on the policy and the procedures for dealing with a drug related incident
- Liaison with outside agencies in relation to drug related incidents

- The induction of new staff and training of existing staff as appropriate
- Reviewing and updating the school drug policy after an incident and when required.
- Completing an incident report form.

THE ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL

It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that correct procedure is followed if a drug incident occurs. Her role includes:

- Determining the circumstances surrounding incidents.
- Liaison with the PSNI.
- Ensuring pupils' welfare.
- Handling, storage and safe disposal of any drug/drugs related paraphernalia.
- Liaison with the Board of Governors and EASR.
- Ensuring the completion of a written report and forwarding to the Board of Governors and EASR.
- Contacting parent / guardian of pupil/s involved.

THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

School governors have the responsibility for their individual school and foster and support the development and on-going review of the policy and education programme. Their role includes:

- Facilitation of the consultative process whereby the school community can respond and contribute to the effectiveness and quality of the policy and programme which they examine and approve prior to implementation in the school.
- Ensuring the policy is published in the school website
- Ensuring that it is reviewed at regular intervals.

THE RANGE OF SUBSTANCES

For the purpose of this document and in line with the guidance issued to all schools by DENI in 2004 a drug can be defined as "any substance which, when taken, has

the effect of altering the way the body works or the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks."

As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- alcohol and tobacco including e-cigarettes;
- "over the counter" medicines, such as paracetamol for headaches;
- prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics to treat infections and benzodiazepines (tranquillisers) to control anxiety and treat insomnia;
- volatile substances, such as glues, correcting fluids/thinners, gas lighter fuel, aerosols and petrol; and
- illegal drugs, such as cannabis, LSD, Ecstasy, amphetamine sulphate (speed) and magic mushrooms (processed).

THE LAW IN NORTHERN IRELAND

All staff are aware of their responsibilities under the law. The law in Northern Ireland differs in certain places from elsewhere in the U.K. The relevant pieces of legislation are "The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967 and the Powers of Arrest-Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989. If the principal has reasonable grounds to suspect that drugs are being used or supplied on the school premises, he will inform the police immediately to avoid any liability as a 'manager or occupier' of premises. All substances taken possession of by staff will be stored in a safe place until police are contacted.

PROCEDURES RELATING TO DISCIPLINE AND COUNSELLING

Procedures should be carried out in line with the Behaviour Policy.

The Principal will be responsible for deciding how to respond to incidents as they occur. She will consider all the factors associated with each separate incident, such as the age of the pupil concerned, whether the incident involved one pupil or a group of pupils, whether there has been evidence of particular peer group pressure and whether it is a first offence. Aughnacloy Primary is committed to tackling drug misuse and any instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs on school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness. Whilst it is not appropriate to prescribe specific sanctions, the decision rests with the Principal

who will respond appropriately incorporating sanctions which may include suspension or, in extreme cases expulsion.

External counselling will be offered if appropriate.

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING AND REPORTING INCIDENTS

A suspected drug incident is described as (See Appendix 6):

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises
- A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A pupil found to be in possession of drugs
- A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs

Staff are not permitted to search pupils' clothing or possessions. However, it is acceptable to ask pupils to empty their pockets and schoolbags. Staff may search school property such as desks.

Actions by members of staff in the event of a suspected drugs-related incident (see Appendix 5):

Individual Staff Member

- ❖ Assess the situation and decide action;
- ❖ Secure First Aid and send for additional staff support if necessary;
- ❖ Make situation safe for all pupils and other members of staff;
- ❖ Carefully gather up any drugs and/or associated paraphernalia/evidence. Pass all information/evidence to the designated teacher for drugs; and
- ❖ Write a brief factual report of the incident and forward to the designated teacher for drugs.

Designated Teacher For Drugs (Mrs Clarke)

- Respond to first aiders advice/recommendations regarding the incident;
- In the case of an emergency inform parents/guardians immediately;
- Take possession of any substances found;
- Take initial responsibility for pupil involved in suspected incident and;
- Complete an incident report form.

Principal

- ✓ Determine the circumstances surrounding the incident;

- ✓ Ensure that the following people are informed where relevant;
 - Parents/guardians;
 - Board of Governors;
 - Designated Officer in EASR
- ✓ Agree pastoral and disciplinary responses including counselling services/ support;
- ✓ Forward a copy of the incident report form to the chairperson of the Board of Governors and the designated officer within the EASR; and
- ✓ Review Procedures and amend, if necessary

CONFIDENTIALITY

When a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs the teacher should make it clear that he/she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However, the teacher may advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice.

DEALING WITH THE MEDIA

If the school receives an enquiry from the media, the caller will be referred only to the principal.

When responding to the media, the privacy of the pupil will be respected. Short, factual statements will be given and the concluding statement will be positive, and reassuring. No further comments will be given.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING

The school drugs education policy is periodically reviewed to reflect changing circumstances and trends in drug use. The programmes of study for drugs education are continually reviewed and any changes deemed necessary are implemented.

Review - March 2022

Appendix 1

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING ALCOHOL MISUSE

Pupils are not permitted to bring alcohol onto the premises. Anyone breaking this rule will be referred to the principal directly.

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING TOBACCO MISUSE

The school is a restricted environment with no one being permitted to smoke on the school premises. Adults breaking this rule will be advised by other members of staff. Pupils breaking this rule will be referred to the principal directly. Signs prohibiting smoking are displayed around school

THE MANAGEMENT OF PRESCRIBED MEDICINES

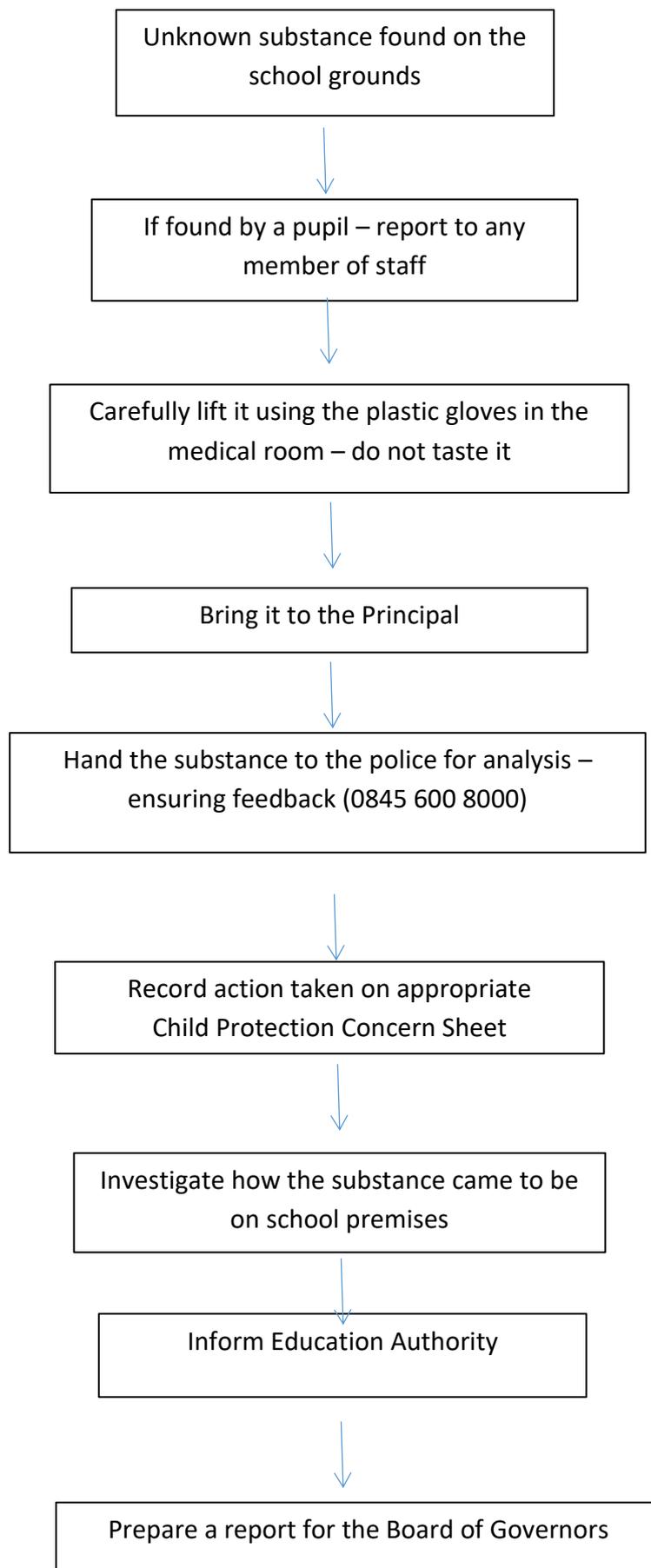
If a pupil is on long term prescribed medicine the following guidelines will be adhered to:

Parents are responsible for providing the Principal with comprehensive information regarding the pupil's condition and medication. Prescribed medication will not be accepted in school without complete written and signed instructions from the parent. An adult must give the medication to the class teacher to be stored safely until required. Children are not permitted to keep medicine in their schoolbags. (For more information please refer to the school's Health and Safety Policy and Policy for the Administration of Medication).

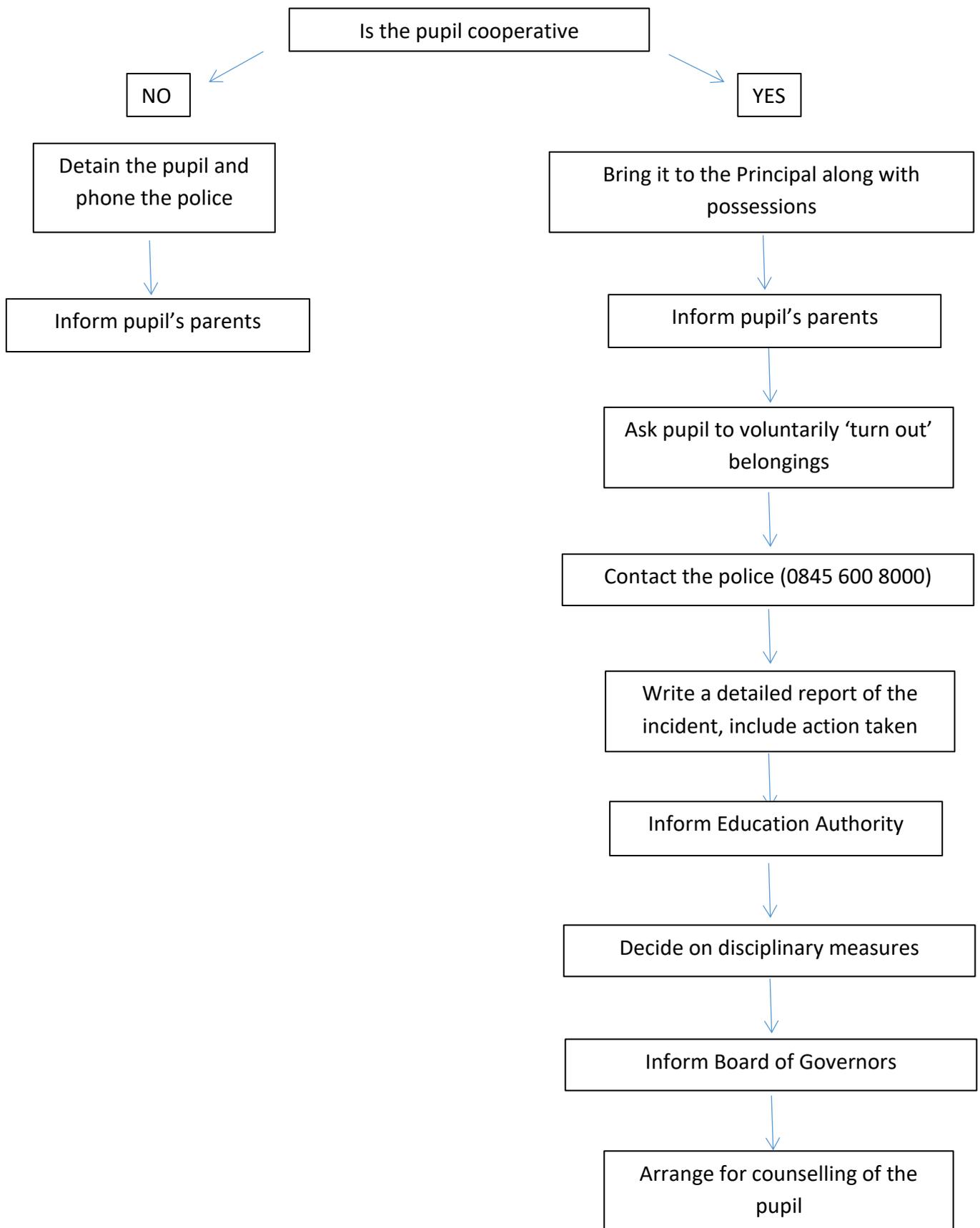
THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLVENTS

All members of staff are responsible for the safe storage and usage of solvents in their class. Where possible they should be stored in a cupboard when not in use. The caretaker and cleaner should ensure that solvents they use are kept in a secure place.

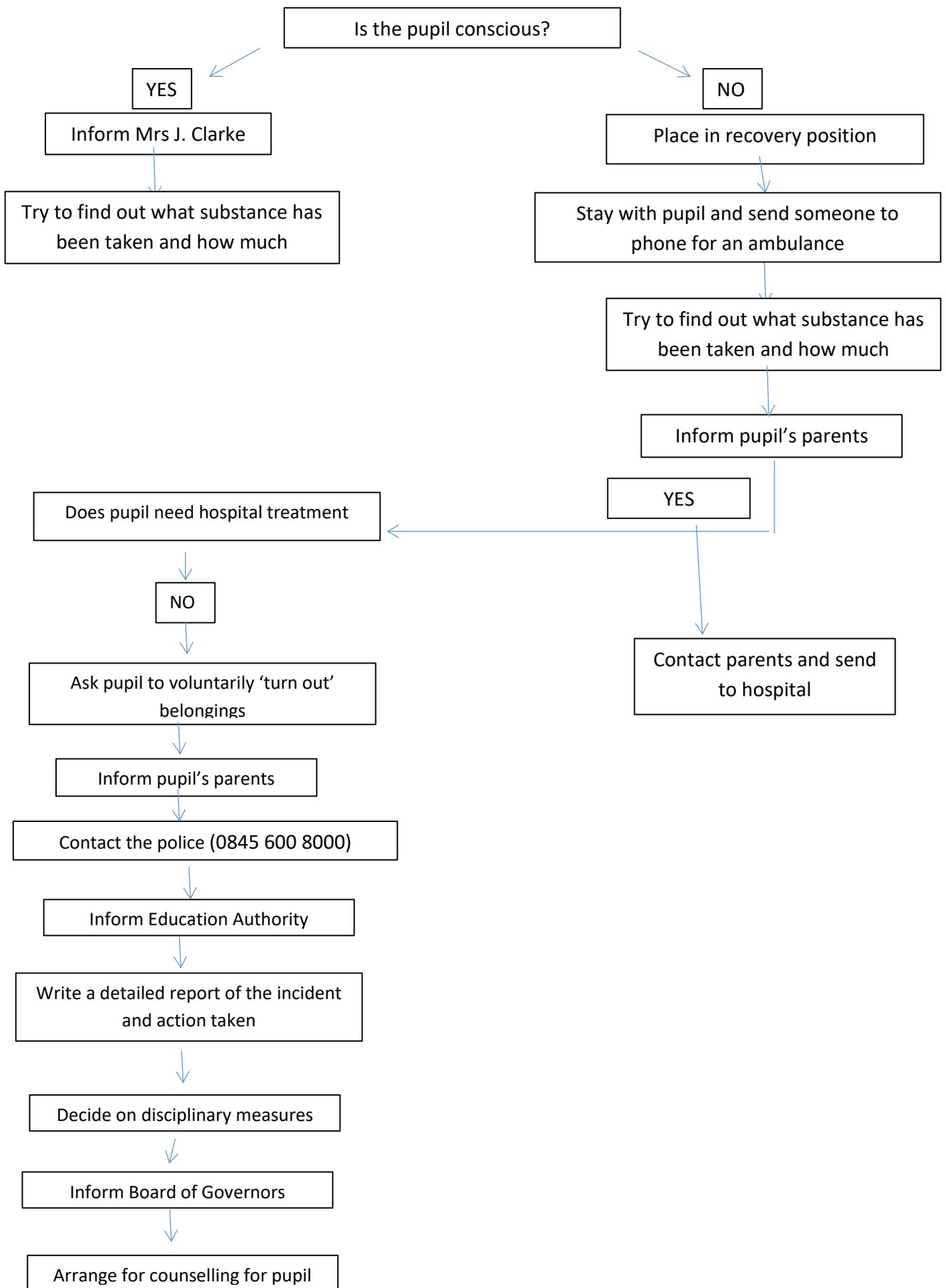
Finding an illegal substance on Aughnacloy Primary Premises (Appendix 2)



Pupil suspected of possessing or distributing an illegal substance (Appendix 3)



Pupil suspected of taking drugs at Aughnacloy Primary School (Appendix 4)



Checklist for handling suspected drug related incidents in schools (Appendix 5)

This is a guide on the key procedures to undertake when a drug-related incident occurs in schools.

1. Ensure the safety of the individual pupil involved, of other pupils, yourself and other staff. On finding a situation with a suspected substance:

-

- Get help immediately from another adult.
- Assess situation, to see if this is a life-threatening situation or not.

If an emergency: -

- If necessary contact an ambulance.
- Put person under the influence of the drugs in the recovery position.
- Ensure airways are cleared.
- Remove any other bystanders from the immediate vicinity.

Then in all cases: -

- Carefully gather up any drugs / paraphernalia / evidence lying around and keep safely.
- Ascertain which substances / drugs have been taken and how much.
- Secure all drugs and paraphernalia and give to the Principal/designated teacher for drugs immediately, and lock them away.
- Contact the parents/guardians as soon as possible.

2. Ensure all incidents are properly investigated and recorded: -

- Never accuse pupils of drug dealing/possession; these are alleged illicit substances until substantiated by the PSNI.
- Conduct search procedures according to school policy. (Never search personal belongings without permission. It is okay to search school property such as cupboards and desks).

- Ensure all drugs are safely and securely stored or destroyed, making sure that this is witnessed by another adult and recorded.
- Gather details and data from all the eyewitnesses at the scene.
- All statements and phone calls should be recorded, signed and dated.
- Record all information on official incident form and sign and date, or ensure accurate details are given to whoever is writing the form and co-sign.
- Ensure an incident form is filled in and forwarded to the Education Authority.
- Ensure that you follow all the procedures in your School's Drugs Policy.

3. Ensure appropriate individuals and agencies are informed and contacted as needed: -

- Principal and designated teacher for drugs
- Parents / guardians
- PSNI
- Education Authority
- Chairperson initially and subsequently the Board of Governors
- The Education Welfare Officer
- No media statements, only the Principal should do this

Recognising Signs of Substance Abuse (Appendix 6)

What to look out for:

If someone is having a bad time on drugs, they may be:

- Anxious
- Tense
- Panicky
- Overheated and dehydrated
- Drowsy; or
- Having difficulty with breathing.

What to do:

The first things you should do are:

- Stay calm
- Calm them and be reassuring, don't scare them or chase after them
- Try to find out what they've taken; and
- Stay with them.

If they are anxious, tense or panicky, you should:

- Sit them in a quiet and calm room
- Keep them away from crowds, bright lights and loud noises
- Tell them to take slow deep breaths; and
- Stay with them.

If they are really drowsy, you should:

- Sit them in a quiet place and keep them awake
- If they become unconscious or don't respond, call an ambulance immediately and place them in the recovery position
- Don't scare them, shout at them or shock them
- Don't give them coffee to wake them up; and

If they are unconscious or having difficulty breathing, you should:

- Immediately phone for an ambulance
- Place them into the recovery position
- Stay with them until the ambulance arrives; and
- If you know what drug they've taken, tell the ambulance crew; this can help make sure that they get the right treatment straight away.