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**SchoolBeat.org**



The All Wales School Liaison Core Programme

# Newsletter

## Autumn 2014



# Dear Colleague,

We hope you had a great Summer holiday!

This autumn's issue is packed full of interesting features, including a special feature on **computer gaming**.

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### SPECIAL FEATURE

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## A focus on computer gaming



“ Violent computer games are having a damaging effect on children of primary school age, teachers have warned. ”

UK Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)

“ It's important for parents to take control of their child's media diet. ”

Craig Anderson, Chair of the International Society for Research on Aggression (IRSA)



# Computer games and the law

All games sold in the UK are regulated under a system called PEGI, the Pan European Game Information scheme, which makes it illegal to sell 12, 16 and 18 -rated video games to children and young people under that age.

The PEGI system insists that all games sold in the UK offer guidance on the packaging for consumers in the form of visual symbols to indicate the games' content under the headings of reference to sex, drugs, fear, gambling, violence, bad language and discrimination.



Under the regulations, retailers could face a prison sentence of up to six months and a fine of up to £5,000 for selling a game to someone under the age-rating classification.

All too frequently however, adults are purchasing games that are not age appropriate for children and young people, resulting in the impressionable minds of children being exposed to wholly unsuitable and very adult material. Schools are reporting concerns over the behaviour and play being exhibited by some pupils who have access to these kinds of games.



“ The average child will spend almost 2,000 hours in front of a screen between their tenth and eleventh birthdays. ”

Baroness Greenfield former Director of the Royal Institution

## PEGI symbols...

12



GAMBLING

16



VIOLENCE

18



SEX



DISCRIMINATION



DRUGS



FEAR



BAD LANGUAGE

Schools are increasingly reporting that some pupils arrive tired as a result of playing computer games late into the night. They are also concerned that some children are re-enacting very disturbing behaviours during their play, such as simulating sexualised behaviour and extreme violence.

School Community Police Officers are concerned about the rise in the number of young primary age pupils admitting to having or playing 16 and 18 rated games. When asked about their favourites, pupils often mention titles such as Grand Theft Auto (GTA), Halo, and Call of Duty amongst others.

**Parents should be aware of the content of any game their child is playing and understand why it may have a rating making it suitable only for adults.**

**In many games the player assumes the identity of a character in the game's storyline. The player's avatar or character may have to complete missions which involve scenes of extreme violence and criminal behaviours.**

Some games have bad language, mature humour, scenes of a sexual nature or discrimination, drug use, or horror as a significant feature of the game.

**Parents need to know that the game is not rated 16 or 18 because of its level of difficulty, but because of the mature content.**

## **HELPFUL ADVICE** **for use with parents**

- Always look for the age classification on the game package or via the search engine on the PEGI website.
- Checkout the game content through online reviews or ideally play the game yourself first.
- Play video games with your children, watch over them when they play and talk with them about the games they play. Explain why certain games are not suitable.
- Be aware that online games sometimes enable the download of extra software that can alter the game content and the age classification of the game.
- Online games are usually played in virtual communities requiring players to interact with unknown fellow players. Tell your children not to give out personal details and report inappropriate behaviour.
- Set the limits by using the parental control tools of the game console or PC. Keep consoles and other digital devices out of the child's bedroom at night.

**For more info check out**  
**<http://www.schoolbeat.org/en/parents/>**





**Meic** is a helpline for children and young people in Wales, up to the age of 25. Meic can be contacted 24 hours a day by telephone, instant message or text.

Since its launch in 2010 Meic has taken more than 14,000 contacts from children and young people.

Meic believes that all children and young people should have their views, wishes and feelings heard. They are an open-access advocacy service open 24/7 to anyone under 25 years of age for advocacy, information and advice.

### About advocacy services

The helpline specialises in providing advocacy by directly supporting and empowering children and young people to self advocate, by referring them to appropriate face to face advocacy services or by advocating on their behalf.

**70% of those who contact the service are supported in this way.**

“ Over the last year we have seen a staggering 70% rise in contacts from children and young people suffering and/or concerned about a mental health issue. ”

Meic information and support services



## CONTACT...



**Phone**  
08088 023456



**Website**  
[www.meiccymru.org](http://www.meiccymru.org)



**Text**  
84001

# Drugs in the spotlight

**Cannabis is a Class B drug derived from the cannabis plant, a bushy plant found wild in most parts of the world and easily cultivated in Britain.**



## Cannabis



A 2010 report from the Association of Chief Police Officers found that herbal cannabis cultivated in farms, often located in rented properties and commercial units, now makes up around 70 to 80 percent of the commercial supply.

The whitish THC resin is visible on the surface of the leaves of this plant. Skunk can be three times stronger than other forms of Cannabis.

### Skunk

#### Effects:

Due to increased levels of **THC (tetrahyracannabinol)** the psychoactive ingredient, it has more potent effects such as:

- elation
- profound relaxation
- altered sense of time and space
- increased sociability and talkativeness
- heightened hallucinogenic effects
- the 'munchies' a strong desire to eat and keep eating.

#### Risks:

- projectile vomiting
- anxiety attacks & paranoia
- increased heart rate & blood pressure
- increased risk of accidents
- affects concentration and ability to learn if used regularly
- slurred speech and memory loss when used habitually.

“ Skunk is the generic name often used by the press and police to describe a potent form of the cannabis plant. In fact Skunk is only one of 100 or so varieties of cannabis plant which have high levels of (THC). ”

Drugscope UK



**Cannabis farm in the UK**

# Synthetic Cannabinoids

Whilst Cannabis is a naturally occurring Cannabinoid, synthetic cannabinoids are a collection of herbs or plant material which has been sprayed with chemicals that mimic the psychoactive effects of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) and produce a cannabis-like effect when smoked.



The drug is often marketed under the name of Spice such as 'Spice Gold' or 'Spice Diamond', or under other names such as 'Black Mamba', 'Exodus Damnation', 'Annihilation', 'Clockwork Orange' and so on. China and the Far East appear to be the main areas for production.

## Effects:

- Euphoria
- Relaxation
- Hallucinations.







## Risks:

- Raised pulse
- Dry mouth
- Dizziness and sickness
- Reduced inhibition resulting in risk taking behaviour
- Agitation and paranoia.

Synthetic Cannabinoids may be more harmful than Cannabis, due to their method of manufacture and the fact that the compounds used and their strength varies between samples. Evidence indicates that synthetic cannabinoids can be anything up to ten times stronger than the THC found in cannabis plants. Given the product's inconsistency, the user has no idea what they are buying. Packets of these drugs can contain anything between 0.2% and 3% Cannabinoid.

## The law and penalties

From 23 December 2009, synthetic cannabinoids were classified alongside Cannabis as a Class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

	Possession	Possession with Intent to supply/supply Manufacture or Cultivation
<b>C</b>	 2 years and/or fine	 14 years and/or unlimited fine/seizure of assets
<b>B</b>	 5 years and/or fine	 14 years and/or unlimited fine/seizure of assets
<b>A</b>	 7 years and/or fine	 Life and/or unlimited fine/seizure of assets

Key Stage	Year	The Core			Supplementary Menu
		Drug & Substance Misuse	Social Behaviour & Community	Safety	
FP	1			People who help us!	1. Playing Safe – Personal Safety
	2	Who? What? Where? Take Care	Right or Wrong?		2. Safe Haven – Safer Relationships <i>(from Jan 2015)</i>
LKS2	3		Sticks & Stones – Anti-Bullying		1. Stay SMART – Internet Safety
	4	TASK Tobacco, Alcohol, Solvents Knowledge		Friend or Foe	
UKS2	5		I Didn't Think? Anti-social-behaviour		1. Noughts and Crosses Diversity 2. The Park – ASB Relationships
	6	1. So, What's the Problem? – Alcohol and solvents 2. It's Your Choice – Drug Classification		Be Cyber Safe – Cyberbullying	1. Picture This – Mobile Phones 2. Right to Be Safe – Safer Relationships

## New or updated lessons for 2014

- **KS4 -Vanity Insanity** – Steroids and Image Enhancing Drugs – The law, risks & consequences. *(From September 2014)*
- **KS3 - Hidden Hurt** – Safer relationships – domestic abuse lesson to include issues around young people and relationship abuse. *(From Sept 2014)*
- **KS3 - Risky Pics** – Sexting – Appropriate use of digital devices and photography. *(From Jan 2015)*
- **Foundation Phase – Safe Haven** – Safer Relationships – Early introduction to safer relationships within the home. *(From Jan 2015)*


Preferably your school should receive all age appropriate lessons from the Core Menu and you may also in addition opt for lessons available in the Supplementary menu.




Key Stage	Year	The Core			Supplementary Menu
		Drug & Substance Misuse	Social Behaviour & Community	Safety	
KS3	7		Kiddo's Choice – The Consequences of Crime		Solving the Problem – Solvent Abuse
	8	1. Thinking about drinking Alcohol 2. Rue The Day Possession and supply			1. Breaking the Cycle Bullying 2. Cultural Identity Diversity
	9			Think U know or Look Who's Talking Internet Safety  Hidden Hurt Safer Relationships	1. Just the Ticket Behaviour on the Buses 2. Personal Safety 3. Why Weapons? 4. Risky Pics Sexting (Jan 2015)
KS4	10	1. Double Trouble! – Alcohol 2. Class Act – Drug Classification and New Emerging Drugs (NEDs)	Save Me – Community Diversity		1. COW – Car Crime 2. Rights & Responsibilities – Diversity
	11			No Means No – Sexual Consent	1. Dangerous Deception – Sexual Exploitation 2. Vanity Insanity – Steroids and Image Enhancing Drugs (SIEDs)

For more info check out...







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# What's new ?

## New accredited unit of PSE lessons

### What's it all about?

Agored Cymru is the Welsh awarding organisation specialising in meeting the needs of all learners in Wales. They develop qualifications and accreditation opportunities to achieve the priorities of the Welsh Government in supporting learners of every age in Wales, to gain access to the benefits of learning.



The All Wales School Liaison Core Programme (AWSLCP) has developed a KS4 Level 2, (GCSE, grade C equivalent) and level 1 accredited unit of 10 lessons with Agored Cymru. The lessons focus on **substance misuse, alcohol misuse, sexual consent, child exploitation** and **car crime**.

As part of the 10 lesson unit, pupils receive 5 lessons delivered by a School Community Police Officer, supported by 5 lessons delivered by the class teacher. The support work for teachers can be found on **www.schoolbeat.org**. This includes a PowerPoint presentation, differentiated work sheets and an answer booklet for teachers.

The work achieved is assessed by the class teacher, verified by the internal verifier, and finally passed by the external verifier.

“ ...I think we should have more of these lessons as they are important. They deal with things we need to know! ”

Comment made by a school pupil, about the new accredited unit, June 2014.

“ The pupils enjoyed the course and got a lot out of it as it dealt with real life issues that they could relate to. ”

A teacher comment about the new accredited unit.

'A drug is something that changes the way your mind and body works.'



The unit description, accompanying work booklet which caters for level 1 and 2 and the assessment matrix for learners can be found on the Agored Cymru website: [www.agored.org.uk](http://www.agored.org.uk)

### HB11CY075

Social and Legal Aspects of Personal Safety, Level 1, CDF493

### HB12CY061

Social and Legal Aspects of Personal Safety, Level 2, CDF494

## Who benefits?

The new unit of accredited lessons is specifically aimed at KS4 pupils. Although the AWSLCP is universal in its approach for all young people, the new accredited unit allows for the **development and implementation of a more targeted approach with pupils identified as disengaged from learning or Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs).**

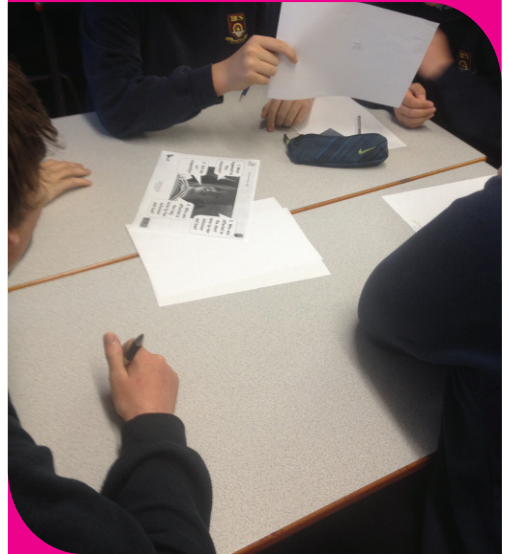
In one of the schools in which the initial pilots took place, all 20 pupils that participated achieved a level 2 qualification. The school was very satisfied with the outcomes and feel it would be a worthwhile addition to their 2014-15 curriculum.

In the other pilot school where pupils experienced considerable learning difficulties, pupils achieved a level 1 qualification. This success has had a significant affect on raising the pupils' self-esteem.

As the qualification has Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) status, the unit provides value added for the school's performance table.

## What's next?

We are developing a complimentary accredited unit of lessons aimed at Key Stage 3, level 2 and level 1. This will encompass lessons delivered by the AWSLCP at Key Stage 3. It will again be a 10 lesson unit covering topics such as substance misuse, alcohol misuse, anti social behaviour, domestic abuse and Internet safety.



Safer Relationships lesson

For more information about starting the KS4 course in your school, please speak to your School Community Police Officer

# Assembly presentations

New this September for KS3

Is it worth it?



Shoplifting

KS2 Coming soon!



KS2 Assembly

## Halloween & Bonfire Night assemblies

Speak to your Schools Officer about delivery of our Be A Nice Guy assembly presentations for Key Stages 2, 3 & 4. The assemblies explore staying safe and avoiding getting into trouble on Halloween and Bonfire Night.

**Book Now!**



The assembly is based on the NSPCC Underwear Rules.

