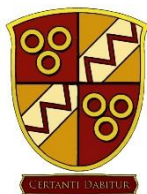


# The Oldershaw Academy

Valkyrie Road  
Wallasey  
Wirral CH45 4RJ  
Tel: 0151 638 2800  
Fax: 0151 691 1581  
E-mail: [schooloffice@oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk](http://www.oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk)  
Company Registration: 07652792



Executive Principals: Mr M Liddell  
Mr J Bush

5<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Following advice from the local authority, as the school holidays approach we would like to raise awareness of potential risk-taking behaviours of young people and highlight drug-related issues within our local communities.

Through our work in partnership with Merseyside Police and other Wirral school services it has become apparent of increased availability and low cost of high-strength **Ecstasy** both in pill and powder forms. (Its chemical name is **MDMA** also known locally as E, Tablets, Pills, or Magic)

**Prescribed Pills** (over the counter powerful depressant medication) i.e. tranquilisers such as **Diazepam** and **Xanax** are also emerging drug trends with increased availability, high strength and low cost to purchase. **Xanax** in particular is very powerful, 20 times stronger than diazepam and has a quicker, shorter-acting effect. Symptoms present as feeling very tired and sleepy.

**Alcohol** alone can be seriously dangerous, however mixing alcohol with other substances can potentially increase the risk of overdose, which can cause heart and breathing problems – this can lead to the individual being admitted to hospital or even death.

**Nitrous Oxide** is a colourless gas that is inhaled via a balloon, commonly found in pressurized metal gas canisters. You may have seen these metal chrome canisters lying around in streets locally to you. Nitrous oxide amongst young people is often referred to as Balloons, Laughing Gas or Hippe Crack. Inhaling nitrous oxide can be very dangerous. The effects can cause dizziness, which may make the individual act carelessly or increase the risk to them becoming unconscious and/or suffocating from the lack of oxygen.

Whilst we believe that our students are sensible and have knowledge and an understanding of the risks and dangers associated to substance misuse, it's important to acknowledge that some young people may face greater exposure to vulnerability and risks during holiday period.

**FIND OUT MORE FACTS** - Visit [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com) for accurate, up-to-date information about different types of drugs / signs and symptoms or call 0300 123 6600.

## Medical Advice:

- If your child presents under the influence of a substance including alcohol and you have concerns please do hesitate to seek expert medical advice and call England NHS helpline on 111.
- If your child is unresponsive or presents as a risk to themselves call emergency services on 999 immediately.

## Worried about your child?

- Talk to them - In general, most young people, especially those Under 16, trust their parents / carers and will respond to any information and support you offer.

- Make the time to have the conversation.
- It's important to stay calm and open-minded.
- If you're sure there's a problem and your child refuses to talk to you, try not to panic.

#### Where to go for help?

- **Response - Drug & Alcohol Service / Response Counselling Service**  
(Additional Youth Support, Wirral Borough Council)

This agency offers advice; guidance and support to young people aged 13 - 19.  
Please call **0151 666 – 4123** or email [response@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:response@wirral.gov.uk)

- **CAMHS helpline** - The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) has launched an extended out-of-hours advice line for people living in the Cheshire and Wirral area.

The advice line is open to everyone (children, young people, relatives, teachers, other professionals) and allows people to talk to a mental health professional if they are concerned or would like advice about a child or young people's mental health.

The advice line runs from **9-10pm (mon-fri)** and **12 – 8pm (Saturday and Sunday)**. **Advice line number is 0151 488 8453**

- **GP** – Seek advice from your local doctor.
- **Adfam** is the national charity working to improve life for families affected by drugs and alcohol. Please visit [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

If you wish to discuss any of this further then please contact Gill Read, Safeguarding Lead, on 0151 638 2800 x213 or email her [readgi@oldeshaw.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:readgi@oldeshaw.wirral.sch.uk)