



St. Anne's School
ALDERNEY

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Headteacher: Mr M A Winward

9 December, 2021

Dear Parents and carers (Secondary),

Re Support

Following on from the letter parents will have received about a serious incident involving large gatherings of young people in the community (**Guernsey**) which resulted in significant harm to a young person prior to half term, we wanted to update you on the support which has been put in place for young people.

Whilst there have not been any further serious incidents, we are aware that house parties amongst young people where alcohol is present, have continued. **Whilst we know this is not exclusive to young people in Guernsey it is important for us to share the same message with you as parents for your child/children in Alderney. We know from past history that we have had similar issues here in our own community.**

We therefore want to encourage all parents/carers to continue to be vigilant about where their child is, especially in the lead up to Christmas.

Support in place:

- **Action for Children (AFC)** staff are currently going into secondary schools offering 1:1 support to pupils who have identified substance issues and agreed to have some support. We have two Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education workers who go into all schools from years 5 to Year 11 – **this includes, Alderney**. Any young person or concerned other can contact them at any time for support/advice – using contact details below.
- The **School Nursing** service is available to pupils on request through the school or referrals can be made using the email address below. **Please contact Ms Kim Smith, SENCo and Inclusion Manager at St. Anne's School if you would prefer. Katie Hill is our assigned School Nurse.**

Key messages for parents/carers:

- The UK Chief Medical Officer (**CMO**) recommends that parents should not allow their children to drink any alcohol, under the age of 15.
- The earlier a child starts drinking alcohol the more likely they are to develop drinking problems later in life.
- Know their friends—children whose friends drink alcohol are five times more likely to drink than those whose friends do not.



- Though family drinking habits and witnessing drunkenness among family members has a strong influence on teenagers drinking, the strongest influence on teenagers is having friends who drink.
- Talking to your teenager about how to resist peer pressure and what happens to your reactions if you combine drinking and other substances, is really important
- Sports, hobbies, clubs and other social activities will keep young minds active and fulfilled and can delay the onset of teenage drinking.
- Parties with alcohol—agree plans about alcohol with your child *before* they go to the party. If they then decide to go against what has been agreed, explain what the consequence will be.
- Be careful where you leave alcohol at home—make sure children can't access alcohol without your knowledge.

Useful websites

<https://www.talktofrank.com/get-help/concerned-about-a-child>

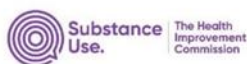
<https://amywinehousefoundation.org/what-we-do/resilience-work-with-young-people/informationfor-parents/?fbclid=IwAROSwXO->

Contact information

Action for Children – 01481 700218 / <https://www.facebook.com/AFCguernsey>

Youth Commission (Alderney & Guernsey) – 01481 226099 / <https://www.youthcommission.gg/>

School Nursing Service – 01481 222011 / school.nurses@gov.gg



Yours sincerely,

Mr M A Winward
Headteacher