

PENRICE ACADEMY – STUDENT POLICY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Review date:

September 2021

INTRODUCTION

Penrice Academy does not accept or condone the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.

The Academy is committed to the health and safety of its students and staff and all other member of the Academy community and will always endeavour to safeguard their wellbeing.

Penrice Academy acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the academy will seek to persuade students in need of support to approach members of staff.

For the purposes of this policy the term drugs includes alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances ('legal highs') and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified.

Penrice Academy is committed to creating a conducive learning environment within which all young people have access to the highest quality of education which enables them to develop and achieve to the best of their ability. With this in mind there can be no place for drugs on the school premises and school staff will take all necessary action to ensure the wider school community are safe and also that learning is not negatively impacted. It is however also recognised that pupils face many challenges as they grow up and therefore need to be properly equipped to deal with the challenges drugs present. This policy outlines the school's approach and a range of interventions which are designed to send out a clear messages that drugs will not be tolerated, whilst also creating a supportive environment within which young people can proactively discuss their drug related concerns as well as being able to access pastoral and specialist support.

At Penrice Academy, we have an effective system of student support and a carefully structured programme of Drug Education, delivered in 'CLASS' (Culture, Lifestyle and Society Studies) lessons and by using a range of outside agencies.

Teaching young people about drugs is part of every school's programme of education. The emphasis will be on support and staff will cover the legal aspects of drugs (possession, supply, effects and consequences), understanding health issues connected to using substances and how to resist peer pressure. The drugs education programme will be delivered through 'CLASS' and Science lessons supplemented by assemblies and specialist visits by external agencies e.g. YZUP. Students will also be informed of where to find information and support both in-school and on-line.

External support may include the use of the Police and their Passive Drug Dog, under the Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Normally this will be conducted in two phases: firstly, assemblies to involve all students where students are given up-to date information and advice about specific drugs, this information will also include students being informed about an operational phase; secondly, the

operational phase where the drugs dog will be in school conducting spot checks. In both phases the aim is education and prevention, not punishment in order to enable the elimination of drugs from the school site and to help discourage use.

Any issues that arise during the operational phase are entirely the responsibility of the school except where it is suspected the law has been broken in respect of 'possession with intent to supply'.

Along with Penrice Academy, all the Mid Cornwall secondary schools including Poltair, Brannel and Fowey are committed to using drugs dogs as part of their education programmes and their use does not signify that any school has a drugs problem.

Despite the approaches described above, there are still likely to be some students who experiment and use drugs. To manage such situations, we have developed clear policies and procedures. Our aim is to develop a consistent approach to dealing with and managing drug misuse at Penrice Academy. The over-riding aim is to ensure the well-being of all our students. Instances of possession, purchase, use of, supply of drugs on the school premises will therefore be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH

A range of information will be made available to young people – both formally (through the curriculum) and informally via student support, leaflets/ posters and relevant websites. Young people are supported and encouraged to talk about drugs so that appropriate services e.g. YZUP can be accessed if required. It is recognised that some young people may be at greater risk of drug use and these risk factors are clearly understood by all staff. Relevant up to date information and training will be provided to all staff, with more specific training provided for key members of the Pastoral Support Team. Parents will be able to access relevant information about the schools approach to drug use through the school website.

1. AIMS:

1.1 Ensure the well-being of all our students

1.2 Prevent the incidents of drug misuse affecting learning or leading to personal problems.

1.3 Encourage students to refrain from drug misuse and if at risk, to seek appropriate support.

1.4 Understand vulnerability factors and provide early support to those students most at risk.

1.5 Ensure teachers and school staff have access to training and resource so that they are equipped to recognise the signs of substance use and respond appropriately.

1.5 Parents are aware of the schools approach and involved where appropriate.

2. PROCEDURES FOR STAFF TO FOLLOW IN RESPONSE TO ANY DRUGS RELATED INCIDENT:

2.1 Ascertain on the balance of probabilities whether the student is in any immediate danger or under the influence of any substance (controlled or prescribed medications). If they are, seek medical help following school procedures. If in any doubt speak to the school first aider for medical advice.

2.2 If a student has made a disclosure to you about their, or another student's involvement with drugs, contact the Senior Vice Principal/Assistant Principal, Care and Guidance, in the first instance.

2.3 If you have discovered a student or group of students with an illegal substance or with an unknown substance on the school site, inform a senior member of staff immediately.

2.4 Action to be taken by senior member of staff:

- Remove and confiscate the substance from the student concerned, preferably in the presence of another member of staff.
- Where students are suspected of concealing drugs on their person or amongst their possessions, every effort should be first made to secure the voluntary production of any substances, for example, by asking them to turn out their pockets or to empty their school bag or locker. If the student refuses it will be explained to them that a search will be undertaken without their consent if necessary, and it would be better if their consent was given. These powers will be used in accordance with DfE guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation. This search will not require pupils to remove any clothing other than outer clothing.
- Any substance or items seized will be entered into the School-Police Drugs Seizure Book. Staff need to ensure that the substance is either disposed of safely (if appropriate) or stored appropriately in a secure location before handing to the Police.

2.5 The member of Leadership Team will work with the Head of Year to investigate the incident fully. All statements must be written by the member of staff or the student under the direction of the staff interviewing. All statements should be taken as close to the timing of the incident as possible.

2.6 When an investigation has been undertaken and the balance of probabilities decided, a meeting will take place between the staff investigating and the Headteacher to determine the appropriate outcome.

3. DEALING WITH DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

3.1 Any student involved in an incident of drug misuse in school will be dealt with immediately. However, there are specific sanctions and support procedures that will be used as a starting point for any drugs related incidents. The procedures that will be followed are detailed below:

Type of Misconduct	Minimum Response
Stage 1 Students found using, in possession of tobacco, smoking materials or e-cigarettes or remaining in the immediate vicinity of students who are smoking.	Students will be given an after school detention of one hour and parents will be informed by letter. Support will be offered to the student via the 'Stop Smoking' Mentor. At this stage a student may be subject to random searches by Senior Staff.
Stage 2	A repeat offence will result in a one day period of internal isolation, a letter home and a parental meeting.
Stage 3	A third offence will result in a one day fixed term exclusion followed by a re-integration meeting with parents.
Stage 4	A fourth offence will result in a lengthier period of fixed term exclusion and a Governors meeting with Senior Staff and parents.
Stage 5	A fifth offence will result in permanent exclusion.
Possession of alcohol Distribution of alcohol Drinking (Consumption) of alcohol Solvent abuse (inc glue/nitrous oxide)	Fixed term exclusion. Referral to relevant outside agencies.

	<p>Possession or supply of Class A, B or C drugs and/or associated drug paraphernalia</p>	<p>If a student is caught in school dealing, in possession of or using drugs or associated drug paraphernalia and the evidence is conclusive, then the student will be permanently excluded without progressing through the 5 stages outlined above. However final decisions about permanent exclusion remain at the discretion of the Principal.</p> <p>If a student or parent makes a disclosure about illegal substance abuse out of school then the student will be referred to the relevant outside agencies for support.</p>
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3.2 Any health and safety issues are of primary consideration.

3.3 All aspects of the incident are investigated before deciding on any course of action. This may involve taking statements from the students/staff and may also mean removing the student(s) from the scene or from school whilst the investigation takes place.

3.4 Parents/carers, the police and other external agencies and partnerships will be notified as appropriate. Where it is deemed appropriate internal support would be offered and in some cases external services accessed.

4. FOR GUIDANCE: WARNING SIGNS OF POSSIBLE MISUSE

4.1 Some signs of drug abuse can be confused with signs of other problems of quite innocent behaviour. Therefore, it is important that all staff (teaching and non-teaching) should take extreme care about not jumping to a conclusion, which might be inappropriate. However, in order to support staff in their identification of possible drug abuse amongst students, we have grouped signs into three categories. If a member of staff has any concerns they should liaise with relevant Senior Staff (refer to 2.2)

4.2 Equipment that may be used for drug use:

- Containers made from silver foil perhaps discoloured by heat
- Small bottles or pillboxes
- Stash cans – disguised as everyday objects e.g. deodorants or coke cans
- Twists of paper
- Straws
- Syringes or needles
- Empty solvent containers
- Cigarette lighters
- Drinks cans with extra holes and signs of scorching
- Spoons discoloured by heat
- Sugar lumps
- Spent matches

- Plastic bags or butane gas containers
- Stamps, stickers, transfers
- Grinders

4.3 Physical symptoms/signs of drug use:

- Sudden changes in mood/behaviour, unusual outbreaks of temper
- Disregard for physical appearance
- Loss of appetite or increase in consumption of set foods
- Use of deodorant to cover smell of drugs or solvents
- Drowsiness, sleepiness or slurred speech
- Unusual small, stained or marks on clothing or body or around the mouth and nose
- Marked interest in glue or solvent based products
- Soreness or redness around the eyes or mouth
- Flushed face or neck
- Dilated pupils
- Small groups meeting in secretive places
- Unsteady on feet
- Staining on hands

4.4 Social Presentation:

- Keeping away from other students
- Being the subject of rumour about drugs
- Use of drug slang
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money
- Unexplained loss of money or belongings from home
- Perpetual stealing of money or goods that are then sold
- Changes in attendance patterns
- Reluctance to participate in school activities
- Loss of interest in a sport or a hobby
- Sudden changes in friendship group
- Performance at school shows a marked decline
- Strangers on or around the school premises

Sources of further information:

FRANK - <http://www.talktofrank.com>

Drug Sense UK - <http://drugsenseuk.co.uk/home.php>