

PENRYN COLLEGE

Drugs Policy – Education and Response

Approved by: Full Governing Body – July 2016

Responsible SLT member: Kirstie Oliver

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This policy has been developed through partnership work between Falmouth School and Penryn College. As well as being reviewed against the 2012 DfE and ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) Drug Advice for Schools guidance document published in Sept 2012 and the February 2014 DoE guidance to schools on Screening, Searching and Confiscation.

In this policy the term “drugs” will refer to:

- All illegal drugs [those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971]
- All legal drugs including but not limited to alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates and legal highs
- All over the counter and prescription medicines

Policy Rationale

To safeguard the welfare and promote the progress of our students, we take responsibility for two areas of activity:

1. **Drugs education.**

Through the taught curriculum and through the ethos of the school we aim to enable students to make informed, decisions regarding drugs and to act on them.

We also recognise that all staff need appropriate training to allow them to meet their responsibilities, and that our governors will need to be fully involved.

2. **Response to drug use and to drug-related situations.**

Where it becomes clear that a student is involved in drug use or a drug-related incident occurs within the school boundaries, we will respond in a planned way which will serve the interests of the student, his or her family, and the school community at large.

DRUGS EDUCATION

Drugs education is a part of our broad aim of promoting healthy life-styles amongst our students. It is therefore an integral part of our health education programme and is not singled out for special treatment. Such an approach would run the risk of glamorising the subject, or failing to put it into the context of health in general.

We try to:

- i) identify and emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle
- ii) provide our students with the knowledge and skills to make appropriate choices now and in adult life.

Within the taught curriculum drug issues are addressed in KS3 and KS4 in Science, RE and PSE for all students.

In Year 7 students study the use of alcohol and smoking as part of their work on Healthy Lifestyles. A key assessment is based on the advice they give about smoking.

In Year 8 there is a unit dedicated to studying drugs, possible reasons for their use and the effects and risks associated with their use.

In Year 9 students reflect upon becoming adults and the issues they may encounter as future parents. Students select the topic that they research; many of them choose to look at drug related issues. Later in Year 9 alcohol

and drug use are raised in the context of health and wellbeing within the unit Streetwise. Here the emphasis is on the social context, the effects upon others of drug misuse and the difficulties of addiction. Learning is supported by visits from recommended specialist outside agencies, such as the Police, Blitz Project and COAST.

In KS4 students further explore the consequences and routes out of drug misuse in their Vocational Skills unit Keeping Healthy, Keeping Safe. Outside agencies A.A. and St. Petroc's are invited to deliver sessions.

THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSE PROCEDURE TO DRUG USE AND DRUG-RELATED SITUATIONS

Our guiding principles are:

- i) to protect and support the student;
- ii) to maintain confidentiality as far as possible, in the student's interests;
- iii) to protect the school community;
- iv) to obey the law.

An important consideration will be the nature of the situation, and in particular whether the student was:

- i) in possession of the substance, with no evidence of use;
- ii) the sole user of a substance;
- iii) sharing the use of the substance with others, or giving it away;
- iv) selling the substance.
- v) in the presence of students who are knowingly using, sharing or giving it to others, and not reporting this to staff.

A range of other factors will be taken into account, especially the particular circumstances of the student(s) concerned.

Young people are not permitted to bring into school or use any unauthorised drug on the school premises at any time. Whilst the first concern with any offence will always be the child well-being, any subsequent action will concentrate on how the school can ensure that this will not happen again.

STEPS TO BE TAKEN

1. Should a member of the staff have good reason to suspect that a student is involved in drug use or supply, he or she should report this to a member of the School's Leadership Team. School's general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the 2006 Education Act, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where it is reasonable to do so. Substances not believed to be controlled drugs, if thought by the school to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline can be confiscated. This would include psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.
2. An investigation, with appropriate consultation, will need to take place. The Leadership Team member may decide that the student will need to be searched. If this decision is taken the following will apply:
 - 2.1 The decision to search has been taken on the reasonable grounds that the student has prohibited drugs on their person;
 - 2.2 The staff member can search by removing outer clothing (defined as not being worn next to the skin) and checking bags, lockers and desks. Staff members cannot conduct a more 'intimate' search. This can only be done by a person with 'extensive powers' such as a Police Officer;

- 2.3 The search must take place with the staff member being the same sex as the student and with a witness present. This does not apply in the extreme circumstance of the staff member reasonably suspecting immediate serious harm to the student;
- 2.4 There is no legal requirement to keep a record of the search and normally parents will be informed that a search has taken place (although there is no legal requirement to do this).
3. Where the initial suspicion is confirmed, the student's parents will normally be informed and invited to play a full part in the handling of the situation.
4. The SLT investigator will be required to take temporary possession of the prohibited substance (whilst still in the presence of the witness). The substance (if illegal) will need to be sealed and secured safely in the SLT member's Office. The Senior Leader will pass the substances to the Police for disposal. The school will dispose of legal substances such as tobacco or alcohol or ask the parent/guardian of the student to collect the substance.
5. Where a medical emergency is evident, an ambulance will be called immediately, a designated First-Aider called, and parents will normally be informed. The welfare of the student is of paramount importance.
6. The Headteacher will be responsible for the school's response, including the involvement of external agencies (see later section), and will inform the governing body of the school.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE STUDENT?

A number of options are available to the school to sanction a student.

If a student is found in the school with drugs the following will happen:

1. Consideration if Permanent Exclusion is appropriate and proportionate
2. The school will also consider a Fixed term Exclusion
3. Assess the relevance of any mitigating circumstances
4. A remediation programme that will identify several or all of the following options:
 - A meeting arranged with Careers South West
 - A referral to an outside agency such as YZUP
 - A referral to the Police Youth intervention Officer
 - A programme of drug awareness with the School nurse
5. The student will be placed on a contract regarding future conduct that will detail exit criteria, timescale and the remediation programme and the consequences of future involvement with drug related incidents.

THE ROLE OF THE PARENTS

- To ensure their child attends and engages in the remediation programme offered.
- To attend a meeting with the Head Teacher, representative Governors, and school staff, that will review the incident and decide upon the next actions.
- If parents have a suspicion that their child, or other students, are involved with any form of drugs, it is important that they seek advice immediately. Advice can be sought from the following:
 - ✓ School (please contact Student Services)
 - ✓ The Police, by contacting 101
 - ✓ **FRANK** - This is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to

parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0800 77 66 00

Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

For additional advice, the agencies detailed in Appendix 1 should be considered.

This policy will be monitored by:

The named Senior Manager along with the rest of the Senior Management team, the Governors Disciplinary Committee, the Student Council's views and those of the Parents' Forum will be canvassed.

Appendix 1

EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Should a student be unconscious or seriously distressed, the member of staff handling the situation will ensure an ambulance is summoned immediately, and one of the school's designated first-aiders will be called. Parents will be contacted immediately.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Under the 1989 Children Act social services departments have a duty towards children who may be at significant risk. To help them fulfil that duty and to protect our students we will involve social services where:

- i) the student is already in their care;
- ii) the student's family is known to be involved with social services;
- iii) the Headteacher or the Designated Person for Child Protection believe there is significant risk to the student - for example, because of insufficient parental care.

Education Welfare Officer (EWO)

In all drug-related situations we will keep the EWO informed of developments so that he or she can give advice and gauge what level of support is required by the student and the family.

Police

The school may decide to inform the Police depending on the individual circumstances. If the school does decide to inform the Police then contact is to be made through the local Community Officer and the Youth Intervention Officer.

Freshfields

The Freshfields agency is able to provide expert help in relation to drug use, especially where the use is considerable. Parents will be informed of its existence, and made aware of the support it can offer.

Careers South West (CSW)

Advice and support for young people is available on a wide range of issues, including drug taking, these services are made known to students and their parents.

YZUP

A young peoples' drug and alcohol service for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, established in February 2005, to which students may self-refer or be referred to by CSW PA.

CDAT

Cornwall Drugs and Alcohol Team (CDAT) is the specialist alcohol and drug service which provides:

- Specialist consultancy and advice to other professionals community
- specialist prescribing service
- community detoxification service

It supports primary care services, mental health services and criminal justice services through the Criminal Justice Integrated Team (CJIT).

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