

**PENRYN COLLEGE**

**Drugs Policy**

**Approved by:** Full Governing Body – July 2019

**Responsible SLT member:** Bethan Laing

**To be reviewed:** July 2021

**Published:** Virtual School, Website

## Education and Response

This policy has been 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 DfE 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

To safeguard the welfare and promote the progress of our students, we take responsibility for two areas of activity; drugs education and response to drug use and to drug related situations.

### DRUGS EDUCATION

Drugs education is a part of our broad aim of promoting healthy life-styles amongst our students. 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.
- III. Provide staff with training in drugs awareness.

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

Our guiding principles are:

- I. to protect and support the student(s);
- II. to maintain confidentiality as far as possible, in the student's interests;
- III. to protect the welfare of 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.
- VI. In possession of drugs paraphernalia with the balance of probabilities suggesting recent or sustained drug use

Young people are not permitted to bring into school or use any unauthorised drug on the school premises at any time. Drugs paraphernalia or objects/items associated with drug use

are also deemed prohibited items.

Whilst the first concern with any offence will always be the child and any other pupils, any subsequent action will concentrate on how the school can ensure that this will not happen again and that decisions around the course of action will follow school policy to ensure the paramount safety of the child, pupils and staff at Penryn College.

### STEPS TO BE TAKEN

- Where there is a medical emergency 999 will be called.
- Should a member of the staff have good reason to suspect that a student is involved in drug use, under the influence or supplying, he/she should report this to a member of the School's Leadership Team to investigate.
- 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 there are reasonable grounds that the student has prohibited drugs on their person. Any search will be undertaken in accordance with DfE Advice for searching, screening and confiscation (February 2014).
- In the event of a search of a student, parents will be notified.
- In the event of a search of a member of staff, governors will be notified.
- In the event of a search being undertaken and a drug is found, Police will be informed.

### WHAT HAPPENS TO THE STUDENT

If a student is found in the school with drugs, or under the influence of drugs this is considered to be a serious breach of the school's Behaviour Policy and it is highly likely this will result in a permanent exclusion. Depending on the outcomes of the investigation a number of further options are available to the school.

### THE ROLE OF THE PARENTS

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:

FRANK – Young people's/parents drugs advice and guidance. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 77 66 00  
Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com) Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

YZUP (Young addiction) A young peoples' drug and alcohol service for Cornwall 01872 300816

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/270169/drug\\_advice\\_for\\_schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf)