

PERRYFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL

"Together We Achieve Excellence"



Drug Policy

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Perryfields High School

Drug Policy

This policy is divided in to two sections: -

1. Drug education
2. Procedures for dealing with drug related incidents

Rationale

An effective approach to dealing with drug related incidents and drug education is vital for young people today, so that they can make informed choices and decisions. Young people of all ages want reliable information about drugs, which the school is ideally placed to deliver.

With this in mind, the school is committed to delivering a quality education programme and be consistent in its procedures for dealing with drug related incidents.

In the context of this policy, drugs mean:

Tobacco

Alcohol

Illegal substances such as Cannabis/Heroin

Any type of legal high

Solvents

Prescription medicines

Drug Education

Aims

- To increase the awareness of pupils, through the development of a drug education programme.
- To equip pupils with the necessary skills to make informed decisions.
- To increase pupil knowledge about drugs through sharing factual information and targeted at appropriate ages.
- To provide a consistent approach to drug education and incidents.
- To positively influence pupils attitudes and extend the age of their first use of drugs and reduce the number of young people who try drugs.
- To provide opportunity for discussion.
- To minimise the adoption of dangerous drug activity.
- To challenge stereotypes.

Good Practice

- All information should be age/gender/ethnic appropriate. Staff should be sensitive to the fact that pupils may have a variety of attitudes towards drugs and their use by their cultural and religious backgrounds and life experiences.
- The PDM schedule was updated in September 2015 to include an increase of sessions on drug awareness and new terms of drugs that have emerged over the last 12 months.
- Young people may live within situations where drug use is part of everyday life. This has to be taken into account and a non judgemental attitude employed.
- A wide variety of teaching methods should be employed, using interactive and participatory approaches, in order to cater for the range of learning styles and needs.
- Care should be taken to ensure that vulnerable pupils, including those with SEN receive their entitlement with drug education.
- Drug information should be updated annually.
- All staff should be trained and feel supported in what they do.
- All stakeholders should be involved in devising a drug education programme, including young people themselves.
- There should be an agreement in consistency of information and school attitude.
- Outside support agencies should be involved where appropriate with young people, who should also be made aware that contact can be made confidentially.
- Decisions to fixed term or permanently exclude pupils will be made jointly between the Head and Associate Head Teacher. The person who took the lead in the investigation will present the case at a disciplinary hearing.

Coordination of Drug Education

Drug education will be delivered through a variety of subjects

- PSHE and Citizenship
- Science
- Drama
- Religious Studies
- Physical Education

Drug education as part of PSHE is coordinated by the Assistant Head Teacher (AHT) (Miss Harris) in consultation with the Curriculum Enhancement Manager, Heads of Department, other Senior Staff and the DECCA Team. (Drug Education, Counselling, Confidential Advice)

Heads of Family liaise with AHT to plan the delivery of drug education during the timetabled PSHE lessons. Outside agencies are also be invited in to sessions to assist in the delivery and to deliver assemblies.

In other lessons, drug education is delivered through aspects of the National Curriculum, however, liaison with the AHT will be necessary to enhance programmes of study and ensure that cross curricular issues are addressed.

From September 2016, there will be PSHE themed weeks where drug education will be delivered for Year 8 and Year 10.

KS3 Drug Education Content (Year 8 PSHE)

Knowledge

- School rules, policy and procedures relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs.
- Information about legal drugs, including prescription medicines and illegal drugs, their effects and health risks.
- Scientific terminology, including words such as: - use, misuse, abuse, addiction, tolerance, dependence, overdose, withdrawal and adulteration.
- Different categories of drugs, including: - stimulants, depressants, analgesics and hallucinogens.
- The law relating to drugs.
- The misuse of drugs in sport.
- The effects of different levels of alcohol intake.
- Advice and support within the locality help lines and organisations.

Skills

- Be able to identify risks to health.
- Communication with peers, parents and organisations.
- Decision making and assertiveness in situations relating to drug misuse.

- Being able to give help and secure help when needed.

Attitudes

- Impact of the media and advertising on young people's thinking.
- Attitudes towards drugs, related laws and those that enforce the laws.
- Recognition of one's self as a role model and acceptance of responsibility for one's actions.
- Taking responsibility for one's actions and the safety of others.

Key Stage 4 Drug Education Content (Year 10 PSHE)

Knowledge

- School rules and procedures relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs and the responses to drug related incidents.
- Up-to-date information about drugs, including their legal status, effects and appearance.
- Personal, social, financial, biological and psychological effects of drug misuse.
- Patterns of drug misuse locally and nationally and the impact on the wider community.
- Dangers associated with particular drugs, mixing, environments and moods.
- Legal rights and responsibility.
- Local and national services.

Skills

- Identifying and assessing risks to health.
- Communicating with peers, parents and professionals.
- Decision making and assertiveness in a variety of situations.
- Giving or securing help if needed in a variety of situations.
- Managing conflict and aggressive behaviour.

Attitudes

- Awareness of social and cultural influences on young people.
- Towards individual responsibilities for own actions.
- Towards drugs, those who use and misuse and the laws relating to drugs, including licensing and retail.

Staff Training and Procedures

Staff will be trained where appropriate. Permanent new staff will be trained during their induction programme. Prior to delivery of sensitive drug related issues, staff will receive the appropriate information and training.

Procedures for Dealing with a Drug Related Incident

There are many types of drugs available to pupils, including alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances such as Cannabis. Any alcohol or tobacco related incidents will be dealt with separately to illegal substances. Therefore the following procedures are for illegal drugs such as Cannabis or Heroin.

Staff may notice: -

- Problems with truancy
- Pupils late from break or lunch, exhibiting unusual or out of character behaviour
- Smell of drugs on clothes or breath
- Comments made in class by other pupils
- Decline in standards of work
- Tiredness, lethargy, dilated pupils
- Concerns expressed by parents

Allegations or Suspicions of Drug Usage at School

Staff should: -

- If you hear or are told that a pupil has used, is using or is in the possession of drugs, send for a member of the SLT immediately via the 'on call system'.

Disclosure by A Pupil about Some-One Else

There may be occasions, when a pupil tells a member of staff about another pupil either using, in possession of or dealing drugs.

Staff should: -

- Listen to the pupil who is making the allegation, make a record and pass it on a member of the SLT as soon as possible

Confidentiality

- Pupils divulging information about someone else should be reassured that their names will not be mentioned.
- Pupils should be told that information will need to be shared with other staff and outside agencies where the information is serious, could result in a health and safety issue or is child protection.
- Teachers do not legally have to tell parents, however it is advisable that a senior member of staff make contact and record the conversation.

Pupils Who Use Drugs On Their Way to School or On the Site

When information is divulged that a pupil has taken drugs on the way to school or on the school site, the following should happen

Staff should: -

- Inform the Head or Associate Head Teacher immediately. If they are not available, the next senior member of staff should be informed, using the SLT on call rota

What the SLT Will Do

The SLT should: -

- Remove the pupil from the class, with all their belongings and escort them to an office. This should be done with another member of staff present, preferable a member of the SLT.
- Talk to the pupil, inform them of why they have been removed from the lesson and decide if there is a possibility they have been involved in drug taking, possession or involvement.
- Ask the pupil to empty his/her pockets and bag, ensuring that someone else is present.
- Not touch pupils in any way.
- Inform the police if the pupil refuses to do as requested and there is a strong suspicion that they have drugs on their possession or have taken drugs.
- Mount an investigation and obtain witness statements from any pupils involved or staff.
- Record all information.
- Take no further action if no drugs are found, and the pupil does not appear to be under the influence of drugs.
- Where appropriate contact parents.

Procedure of what Action to take with a Drug Related Incident

If pupils are in the possession of drugs or it is proved they have taken drugs

The decision to exclude a pupil from school is taken very seriously, and is done after consideration and consultation with other senior staff. The pupil's records and previous incidents will be taken into consideration. If a pupil receives fixed term exclusion, they will be integrated back into school and outside agencies such as and DECCA will be involved. They will also sign a 'Drug Free Contract'.

- Any pupil found to have taken drugs on their way to school or on the school site will receive fixed term exclusion for minimum of 3 to 5 days for a first offence (dependant on circumstances in each situation).
- Any pupil involved in a second drug related incident, by being caught in possession, or taking drugs in on the way to or in school will receive a minimum of 10 days exclusion or maybe permanently excluded from school.
- Any pupils found to be dealing drugs in school may be permanently excluded from school.
- Previous pupil records and circumstances will be taken into account when making final decisions.
- If a pupil is involved in a first drug related incident, a CAF will be put in place, which parents are expected to agree to.
- Where necessary, a referral will be made to the MASH.

Legal Position

- There is no legal obligation to inform the police; however, the School may inform the police if appropriate.
- Money does not have to change hands for a young person to be dealing. It can be defined as passing on, selling, giving away or any type of hand over of drugs.
- If a police officer comes into school to talk to a pupil, their parents should be contacted where possible, however, if all measures to contact parents fail, the Head Teacher can grant permission.
- Parents can refuse for their child to be interviewed by the police.

Contacting Parents

- Where a pupil has been shown to either have taken been in possession of or dealt in drugs, parents will always be contacted.
- Details of the incident will be shared with parents along with the decision of the action to be taken.
- The pupil and Parents will be asked to meet with the Head or Associate Head Teacher.
- The pupil and parents may be invited to meet with the Senior Disciplinary Committee or Governing Body.
- Support from outside agencies and reintegration will be discussed and instigated where appropriate.

- Parents should not be contacted if there are concerns about Child Protection. The police or Social Services should be involved.

Police Involvement

The police may respond in the following ways after consultation with the Head Teacher. Action taken will depend on whether the pupil has taken, been in possession of, or found to be dealing in drugs. Police action will be independent to the action taken by the school: -

- The pupil may be arrested and taken to the police station after consultation with the Head Teacher.
- An interview may be arranged with the pupil and parents.
- Police may take no further action, issue a reprimand, final warning or be charged.
- The police will take away the drug if found and dispose of it accordingly.
- Act on any other information received, such as sources of the drug outside school etc.

Actions to Be Taken In a Medical Emergency

- Contact the emergency services immediately via the school switchboard.
- Send for first aid back-up from a trained first aider.
- Do not leave the person or pupil unattended.
- Ensure the victims safety, and that of staff and pupils.
- Save any drug paraphernalia which may be used in the investigation.

Incidents Relating To Tobacco and Alcohol

- Where pupils are found to be smoking cigarettes on the premises, they will receive a School Detention. Repeated offenders may receive a period in isolation or fixed term exclusion.
- If pupils are found to have brought alcohol into school, or have drunk alcohol, parents will be contacted to take them home. They may then receive a period of time in isolation or fixed term exclusion.