



DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Responsibility	Clive Corbett
Date of last review	Sept 2015
Date of next review	Sept 2017

Persnore High School fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding children. This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children Policy.

1. Rationale

Drug use is a health education issue. We acknowledge that some children of compulsory school age are likely to experiment with drugs, including illegal substance, legal 'highs', and may be under pressure to do so. The school will need the support of health and social services, the police and other agencies, as well as parents, in its efforts in drugs education.

2. Range of Substances Covered

This policy encompasses the following:

- volatile (sniffable) substances (eg. petrol, nitrites, butane, aerosols);
- over-the-counter medicines (eg. paracetamol, cough medicines);
- prescription medicines (eg. tranquillisers, amphetamines, anabolic steroids);
- alcohol;
- tobacco;
- illegal drugs (eg. Cannabis, heroin, LSD, ecstasy);
- legal 'highs'.

3. Drug Education Curriculum

Aims

- To educate young people to grow up safely in a society where drugs are available.
- To empower young people to make informed choices by increasing and by challenging attitudes.
- To encourage responsible behaviour in relation to substance use and misuse and to explore related health and social issues.
- To develop the skills that will enable young people to resist the pressures to take drugs.

4. Delivery

Drug education is provided within the PSHE programme and in other subject areas. Learning will be progressive, beginning in Year 8, but will be flexible enough to adapt to identified needs of students and a local climate which can change. Further and up to date drugs education will be provided to students via assemblies, appropriate visiting professionals, updated literature, health notice boards. The school will support parents in developing their understanding of drugs issues; for example, through written information or health education evenings, organized in conjunction with the Friends of Persnore High School.

5. Staff Training

Although ongoing training on drug related issues will be provided for staff, a whole staff training session on this and other pastoral matters will take place on 6th January 2014.

6. Definition of a Drug Related Incident

Drug misuse refers to both the inappropriate use of drugs intended for medical use and the use of drugs with no accepted medical purpose. The school's policy on drug misuse refers to school excursions and all school related activities, on or off the school premises, supervised or not.

The school naturally has an interest in drug related incidents involving students beyond school hours and off school premises. However, the possibility or desirability of action will be assessed in the light of individual circumstances, and the extent to which such incidents impact on school.

7. Dealing with Drug Related Incidents in School

Each incident will be dealt with in the light of its unique set of circumstances. Although the following are probable courses of action, the final decision on how to respond to a drug related incident rests with the Headteacher, who will have taken into account all relevant factors. Parents will be informed and, where appropriate, involved (eg. school disciplinary board, police interview).

If any member of staff has concerns regarding possible drug misuse by a student, that member of staff will report the matter to the relevant Head of House or the safeguarding team who will consult with the Deputy Headteachers and/or Headteacher in determining action.

Any student found in possession or known to have been in possession, of a controlled drug or drug using paraphernalia on school premises will normally face a fixed period of exclusion from school, pending the outcome of police enquiries. This will also apply to legal 'highs'. If there is evidence of an intention to supply or purchase drugs this will also normally result in a period of fixed term exclusion. Following a fixed term exclusion a second offence will normally result in permanent exclusion.

If such a substance is brought on to school premises with the purpose of supplying others, this will normally result in permanent exclusion.

Any student found in possession of, or using alcohol or volatile substances on school premises, in willful defiance of school rules, is likely to be excluded from school for a fixed period.

Any student found in possession of, or smoking tobacco products on school premises, in willful defiance of school rule, will be punished by a period of detention and parents will be informed. Persistent defiance of the 'no smoking' rule is likely to result in a fixed term exclusion.

An excluded student and his/her parents or carers will be provided with contact addresses, support and advice from health and specialist services, as appropriate.

Written record of a student's involvement in a drug related incident will be kept in their personal file.

8. Confidentiality

Names of students involved in drug related incidents will be conveyed to staff only when the facts have been fully established. Staff will observe the confidentiality of this information in conversations with other people, whether in or out of school.

The Headteacher, is responsible for handling media approaches. Responses will be made, where possible, through a typed press release, to avoid verbal responses being misconstrued. Students will not be identified to the media.

9. Police Involvement

The police may have three distinct roles in relation to drugs.

- a) Advisory: The school will seek informal advice from local police as necessary.
- b) Investigative: The school may request police investigation where an offence is suspected.
- c) Educative: The school will seek specialist support in the delivery of the drug education curriculum.

10. Reporting

Suspected Substance use, awareness that a student's life is being affected by family use, or a student's detailed knowledge of substance abuse are all of concern relating to the safety of that student and as such should be reported to the Designated Senior Member of Staff for Safeguarding (Sandy Poulton) or her Deputies (Gayle McPherson, Zoe Budding, Anna Cookson)

11. Dissemination Maintenance and Review of Policy

Parents will be made aware of the policy via the school prospectus, website and newsletters.

Students will be made aware of the policy via the tutorial and pastoral programme, and student planner.