



Drugs Policy

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All schools are required by the government to establish a drugs policy outlining how drugs education is tackled and how drug related incidents are dealt with.

Pierview Academy aim to create flexible, individualised programmes of learning support for children and young people who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to access mainstream education.

Consultation process

This document was prepared in line with the principle of participation, partnership and supporting the needs of our learners.

Policy Statement for Drugs Education

The past decade has seen an increase in the prevalence of drug use in society. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enables students to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is of vital importance. The ability to make informed and healthy decisions about the use of drugs should be part of a broad and balanced health education curriculum.

Pierview Academy do not condone the misuse of illegal drugs, solvents and glues, tobacco, alcohol or any other substance which may be harmful, and condemns the illegal supply of these substances. We are committed to the health and safety of our staff, students and visitors and will act to safeguard their well-being.

Pierview Academy acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people.

Aims of the Drugs Education Programme

The Drugs Education programme is an integral part of the learning process for all students, which aims:

- to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing skills.
- to foster and develop self-esteem.
- to provide accurate information.
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences and dangers of use and misuse.
- to practise the skills necessary to deal with a situation where students may be offered drugs.
- to widen understanding about health and social issues.
- to seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal and professional support.

Elements of Pierview Academy Drugs Education Programme

The aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum as well as the informal curriculum, and through extra-curricular activities. This is supported by relevant staff training on Substance Misuse Awareness and where appropriate understanding around specific substances due to current trends.

The Drugs Education Scheme of Work

Drugs education is covered in PSHE within our schools. This is delivered at various levels depending on the age, needs and personal circumstances of the individual.

For primary learners' substance misuse awareness is covered in basic, introductory terms within the 'New Horizons' curriculum. At a primary age, not all learners would be taught about substance misuse. However, if a specific intervention is required the school will work in partnership with other agencies.

For secondary education and above, Substance Misuse Awareness forms part of the Scheme of Work for various PSHE courses which learners follow as part of the schools Foundation Learning approach. The subject matter is covered in the following areas of our curriculum which learners may access:

- NCFE Level 1 Award in Substance Misuse Awareness
- NCFE Level 1 in Alcohol Awareness
- NCFE Level 1 Award in Well-Being
- Asdan Short Courses
- Key Steps Award
- New Horizons
- Towards Independence
- Personal and Social Development
- Science

Within our Awareness courses students are taught that:

- Alcohol, tobacco and substances may harm the body.
- The range of physical and psychological effects.
- Alcohol and substance misuse can have wider implication on friends, family and society.
- Local and national support is available

Our education aims to:

- raise student awareness about the dangers of drug use
- give the students full, frank and up to date information about the short and long term effects of substances they may be offered
- inform students about their legal position with respect to drugs
- prepare students to enable them to make informed choices and rational decisions about drug use particularly in situations where peer pressure could lead them to make unwise choices.

Substance misuse education with our schools is supported by:

- Guest speaker
- Assemblies
- Displays
- Partnership work with local agencies

Resources and Teaching Scheme

To reflect the differential nature of each PSHE class or the individual being taught the precise choice of resources will vary to ensure that the delivery is appropriate to the specific needs of the class/individual. Resources include but are not limited to Video clips, information leaflets, websites, worksheets, fact sheets, PowerPoint presentations, drug cards, drug boxes, alcohol wheels, alcohol measures and beer googles.

Organisation Pierview Academy Education Programme

The Head Teacher, Curriculum Leaders and PSHE tutors take overall responsible for Drugs Education. However, tutors/LSA's who have the knowledge and/or training requirement may also contribute towards the programmes of delivery.

Drug education in internal moderated by an appointed person depending on the level and course being delivered.

Training Resources/Provision

The school budget recognises the provision that all staff with a responsibility for the delivery of drugs education will receive appropriate in service training. This is often sourced through partner agencies within the local community.

The school will undertake to provide drugs awareness training for all staff at regular intervals as part of its professional development programmes.

The School will attempt to gain positive community links to drug services. This should include but not be limited to drug education, counselling, support for drug users and information, advice and guidance.

Methodology (Teaching/Learning Styles)

Drugs education should help students make informed choices and establish a healthy lifestyle. The teaching methods used therefore are as important as the content of the lesson.

A wide range of teaching methods are used including discussions, role-play, looking at case studies and other active, creative ways of involving pupils in understanding the issues.

Ground rules are established for group activities/discussion when dealing with sensitive issues.

How we handle a drug-related incidents.

In the context of the policy statement the Head Teacher and/or Managing Director take the final decision on any response to an incident in close consultation with the Senior Management Team, staff members involved, parents and any other appropriate person or agencies.

In deciding on how best to handle a drug related incident the school seeks to balance the interests of the students involved, the other school members and the local community. We adopt a supportive approach and recognise that in some cases a young person may need support rather than exclusion.

Where staff suspect drug misuse by students they should report their concerns to the Senior Management Team, via a concern or incident form.

Where there is evidence of drug misuse (any physical evidence in the form of illegal drugs must be confiscated) this should be reported immediately to a member of the Senior Management Team.

Where students are found in possession of illegal or suspected illegal drugs a member of the SMT will interview the student, parents must be contacted and the student may be given a 'cooling off period' whilst the incident is investigated or considered. The police should also be contacted.

If the student returns to the school they will be offered support, counselling and/or information, advice and guidance via a local service.

Where a student is found with large quantities of illegal drugs in their possession or where there is evidence that they have been supplying, parents will be informed and the incident will be referred to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Executive Board for a decision on the individual's future placement at the school. The police will also be contacted.

It should be noted that in any case that involves an interview with the police, parents must be present or if this is not possible a member of the staff must act in loco parentis.

Permanent exclusion is always seen as a last resort but trading illegal drugs to other students, supplying equipment to take drugs or encouraging other students to take drugs, will normally result in consideration of permanent exclusion from the Head Teacher and the Executive Board.

Where a student has been involved in a drug-related incident, the school will endeavour to secure appropriate care and support to the student and family. This support will be sought from:

The Student support team, Staff, Education Welfare Officer, The Local Authority Education Department Drug Strategy Unit, Turning Point, Swanswell and any other appropriate person or agencies.

Dissemination of the Policy

Full details of this policy and the content of the Drugs Education programme is available to parents, tutors, students, staff in the family of schools and to anyone on request.

Procedures for Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

We are committed to monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Programme. This is achieved by:

- Student feedback,
- staff review and feedback,
- parental feedback
- OFSTED inspection.

This policy is reviewed annually. The Evaluation will involve making judgements about the success of the educational programmes against the following criteria: staff confidence and awareness, capability of change in the light of circumstances, success in dealing with any drug related incidents, student awareness and response, parental awareness and response.

Policy Reviewed: Date: September 2017

By Whom: DC