

# PINNER

HIGH SCHOOL

Policy	Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy
Date of Review	March 2022
Reviewed By	DSL/Deputy Head Pastoral
Date of Approval	28 April 2022
Approved By	LGB
Date of Next Review	April 2025
Statutory/Non Statutory	Statutory
Website/Non Website	Website

## **Drugs and Substance Policy**

### **Statement of intent**

This policy has been developed in the light of the need to protect students and staff, protect the interests and reputation of Pinner High School including Governors and Trustees, and to help those who misuse drugs. The school takes a proactive stance on the issue of drugs, and believes that a coherent and well coordinated Drug Education programme is a vital part of the curriculum.

At Pinner High School we take an integrated approach to the teaching of PSHE, Citizenship, SRE and drugs awareness through the PSHE curriculum. The PSHE curriculum is extended throughout the subject curricula to fully address all requirements.

This policy outlines the procedures to be followed when drug related incidents occur on the premises and provides guidance for dealing with parents/carers, outside agencies, police and media.

### **Terminology**

Definition of Drugs:

The term 'drugs' and 'drug education' throughout the policy, unless otherwise stated is used throughout the document to refer to:

- a) All illegal drugs;
- b) All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes and volatile substances;
- c) All over the counter and prescription drugs.

### **Witness**

It is assumed that a witness is a responsible adult, and it is recognised in some circumstances that it may be a student, but this should only be used as a last resort.

### **Trained First Aider**

Refers to any member of staff who is a designated first aider;

NB - Throughout this policy, students are referred to, but the policy also applies to members of staff and visitors to the premises.

### **Principles**

Pinner High School:

- Condone neither the misuse of drugs nor the illegal supply of these substances;
- Is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take appropriate action to safeguard their well-being at all times;
- Seeks to encourage students in need of support to come forward and ask for help as part of its support and guidance procedures.

The school will work within the legal framework when dealing with drug related matters.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **Role of Outside Agencies**

Pinner High School actively co-operates with other agencies, such as the Community Police, Social Care, Local Authority and Health and Drug Agencies to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

### **Role of Parents**

Pinner High School encourages parental involvement in a variety of ways including encouraging young people to lead a healthy lifestyle.

### **Role of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body will be involved in drug education and drug related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

### **Role of Teachers**

Senior teachers, together with tutor/mentors are responsible for the implementation of the Drug Education programme within the curriculum. The Drug Education programme will be regularly evaluated and reviewed in line with the school's Curriculum and Assessment Recording and Reporting Policies.

## **Drugs Education Programme**

Drugs education is an integral part of the Personal, Social, Health, Religious and Economic Education Programme and is in line with 'Drug Education: Curriculum Guidance for Schools' (SCAA & DFE, May 1995) and guidance in DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools (Sept. 2012).

Certain aspects of Drug Education are taught in National Curriculum Science, and may be taught in other parts of the school curriculum for example in English and in community and citizenship education.

At Pinner High School all aspects of the PSHE and drugs educational programmes are embedded in PSHE.

### **Aims of the Drugs Education programme through PSHE**

Through the Drugs Education programme embedded within PSHE and the Science curriculum areas we undertake to:

- Provide students with accurate information about substances;
- Increase students' understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of substances;
- Encourage students to empathise with those experiencing or likely to experience substance misuse, as well as with those indirectly affected, such as their relations and friends;
- Widen students' understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. crime, HIV, AIDS and recreational drugs.
- Seek to raise awareness about minimising the risks that users and potential users face;
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support;

- Foster self-esteem, self awareness and skills of assertiveness in our students that will enable them to resist and avoid unwelcome peer or social pressures;
- Present students with alternative lifestyles that promote health and well-being.
- Allow students to understand the link between drugs and gang crime, including county lines and exploitation of young people.

### **Drugs Education Procedures**

Drugs Education will include questions of values and beliefs. It is therefore bound to be controversial. Teaching about the issues associated with substance misuse should be set within a clear moral framework in which students are encouraged to consider the importance of self restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and others and helped to recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of substance misuse. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, which does not rely upon the effects of substance misuse for a sense of well being. Students will also understand the methods that are used to groom young people and their potential vulnerabilities to involve them in drugs.

### **Advice and Confidentiality**

Staff may not offer students one-to-one advice about substance misuse. Neither may staff promise confidentiality to a student since there are some issues e.g. child protection, legal implications, which may have to be taken to other people.

All concerns must be dealt with as a safeguarding issue.

### **Guidelines for Dealing with Drug Related Incidents**

The powers of staff to search pupils without consent for weapons, knives, alcohol, illegal drugs and stolen items is set out in the Department for Education guidance note "Searching, screening and confiscation – advice for headteachers, school staff and governors". However, staff at Pinner High School will always request consent from pupils in the first instance. Pupils should be aware that staff have this right in relation to illegal or harmful substances. The law also enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property if there is good reason to do so and this also applies to illegal or harmful substances. A record of such searches will be kept.

Any student suspected of being in possession of any of the above substances will be asked to discuss it immediately with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher with a second member of staff present.

A written record of the meeting will be kept. Parents/carers will be informed if the student is being sent home/excluded. Drug counselling will always be offered. It may be necessary to call the police depending upon the severity of the incident. The police will always be informed if a student is caught or reportedly dealing drugs or alcohol on site or to any other students.

### **Child Protection Issues**

When dealing with drug related incidents, it is important that staff are aware of both the school Safeguarding Child Protection Policy and the statutory guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) and should ensure that any action taken, should meet the requirements of the law.

**Confidentiality**

When a student discloses to a member of staff that he or she is involved in taking drugs, that member of staff should make it clear to the student that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality given the seriousness of drug misuse. A member of staff may point out those organisations, which are able to give information and advice.

**Dealing with the Media**

No single member of staff should take it upon themselves to speak to the media in relation to any incident.

**Monitoring, evaluation and review**

The effectiveness of this policy will be regularly monitored and reviewed through the school's self-evaluation schedule.

**March 2022**

**Deputy Head**

Further information is available at:

<http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/drugs/Pages/Drugshome.aspx>

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/understanding-drug-abuse-addiction>

[http://www.who.int/topics/substance\\_abuse/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/substance_abuse/en/)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/674416/Searching\\_screening\\_and\\_confiscation.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf)