



# **Pontypridd High School**

## **Substance Misuse and Offensive Weapons Policy (Inclusive of smoking and e-cigarettes)**

**December, 2021**

<b>Date of policy:</b>	December, 2021
<b>Adopted:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021, Wellbeing Committee Meeting
<b>To be reviewed:</b>	Autumn 2023
<b>Member of staff responsible:</b>	Deputy Headteacher, Mrs K Oliver
<b>Committee Responsible:</b>	Wellbeing Committee Meeting

## Policy Statement

Pontypridd High School has a whole school approach to ensuring the safety, health and wellbeing of all its school community. The school opposes the misuse of any illegal substances and alcohol by members of the school and the possession and supply of these substances, including tobacco and e-cigarettes.

To protect the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff, illegal substances, inclusive of tobacco and e-cigarettes are strictly prohibited within the school grounds. Such substances must not be possessed or bought, sold or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when students are on school visits or working off site.

The school prohibits the carrying of anything deemed to be an offensive weapon(s) on the school premises.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people. Through the general ethos of the school we will seek to educate all children in the dangers of such matters and to persuade those who need support to come forward.

## Aims

Our primary aim is to ensure staff and student safety at all times. As a school we aim to provide all learners with a safe and secure environment in which to work and enable students to make healthy and informed choices.

Smoking or the use of e-cigarettes is prohibited in all areas within the boundaries of our school as set out in guidance established by RCT Local Authority policy whereby our school is a smoke free site. This includes enclosed spaces within vehicles whilst they are on the school site. The policy applies to the use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes and other related 'smoking' products.

This policy applies to all staff, students, governors, volunteers, parents / carers, contractors' employees and visitors.

## Objectives

The objectives of this policy document are to:

- Educate students on the risks of using illegal substances
- Provide a range of support systems for learners who have or continue to be vulnerable to illegal substances
- To inform parents / carers that their child is suspected of or known to be taking illegal substances.
- To raise awareness of dangers of passive smoking
- To seek to minimise the risks to members of the school community that carrying of offensive weapons entails.
- To ensure all visitors to the school comply with this policy and to ensure that they understand that the school is a smoke free zone.
- To recognise the Governing Body's obligations to staff and students regarding health and safety and the provision of a safe school environment
- To improve the working environment within the school with regard to wellbeing
- To ensure that the governing body complies with legislation

It is important to us that our policy and approach to smoking and e-cigarettes (vaping) should reflect changing social attitudes, and actively reflect and support our goals for effective and lasting education around the subject of substance misuse.

## Specific Instructions

- Parents / carers are to be notified at the earliest opportunity if their child is known to be / suspected of taking or in the possession of an illegal substance, inclusive of tobacco or e-cigarettes.
- It will be the responsibility of the Headteacher or a designated senior member of staff to inform parents / carers. At this stage the school will always offer support and guidance where appropriate to parents / carers and the student(s) involved.
- If it is suspected that dangerous substances or weapons are being brought onto the school premises, details of those involved will be passed to the Police.
- The school will deal with each matter on an individual basis. We will consider very carefully all contextual information and the implications of any action taken.
- The school will seek to balance the interests of the students involved and all other members of the school community when managing each situation.
- Permanent exclusion is seen as a last resort but will always be considered where illegal substances or offensive weapons are concerned.

## Our commitment

As part of our commitment to improve health and wellbeing we will:

- Ensure that this policy is regularly made known to all concerned, including students, staff, governors, parents/carers, volunteers and contractors. This will include the display of no-smoking and e-cigarettes (vaping) signs.
- Offer where appropriate the right practical support to anyone in the school community who is seeking to stop smoking and using e-cigarettes (vaping).

- Keep a regular check on the school premises to ensure that they are clear of any smoking and e-cigarette (vaping) related litter.
- Support the reasoning behind the no smoking and no e-cigarettes (vaping) policy through the school curriculum and substance misuse education programme
- Provide a relevant and informative Health and Wellbeing provision focusing on educating learners on the dangers of using and possessing illegal substances

### **Guidance for Staff**

If substance misuse is found to have occurred on the school premises or during the school day, staff must inform a member of the Senior Management Team who will decide what action is to be taken.

In all cases it is essential that any substance or weapon that is found is handed to a member of the school Leadership Team who will notify the Police for it to be disposed of.

### **STAFF SHOULD NOT KEEP THE ITEM OR SUBSTANCE ON YOUR PERSON OR IN A PLACE OF SAFE KEEPING.**

In these cases a report will always be completed, recording the time, date and circumstances of the findings.

In the event of a discovery of any equipment associated with illegal substance use, especially needles and syringes, students must not be allowed to handle them. Staff must handle such equipment with utmost care and / or seek support to do so appropriately. All materials found must be placed in a secure container to await collection by the appropriate service.

If a student is suspected of having dangerous substances or offensive weapons on their person or in their bag, they may be asked to empty pockets or open the bag. If substances or weapons are found, police will be contacted. If a student refuses to co-operate, this will be grounds to contact the Police.

If a student is deemed to be in possession of an illegal drug or an offensive weapon on the school premises, Police will be contacted. These may be seen as being exceptional circumstances and if, in the Headteacher's judgement allowing such students to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the students or others in the school, the student may be permanently excluded.

The School will take advice and follow guidelines provided by the LA and Welsh Government in all matters related to this policy.

## **What sanctions will apply ?**

All sanctions will be co-ordinated directly with our Positive Relationships policy.

Sanctions will apply for any student involved in possessing or using illegal substances, tobacco, e-cigarettes or any other related 'smoking' products. The same sanctions will apply if students are caught in any of the following circumstances

- Travelling to and from school
- Anywhere on the school premises, inside or outside buildings
- On a school trip
- Being educated offsite during school time

## **Tobacco/E-Cigarettes/Smoking relating products**

The following sanctions apply for tobacco, e-cigarettes and any smoking related products.

- If caught with a vape/tobacco/vape juice/tips/papers or any other paraphernalia it will be a minimum of an SLT detention. This is for someone who has not been caught using. Classcharts points and parents / carers informed.
- Any repeat offence with any of the above or caught using tobacco/vape on site it will be a minimum of a day in isolation. Classcharts points and parents / carers informed.
- A repeat offence in possession or using a vape or tobacco will lead to a fixed term exclusion (length to be decided at time of incident and contextual information would be used). Classcharts points and parents / carers informed.
- In any situation where an individual student(s) are confirmed to have a significant amount of tobacco/vapes or smoking/vaping paraphernalia in their possession then a fixed-term exclusion will apply and contact made with the Police. Classcharts points and parents / carers informed.
- Any student caught supplying/passing/distributing tobacco/vapes/e-cigarettes will be subject to a fixed-term exclusion and potentially a permanent exclusion depending on severity.  
The length of any fixed-term exclusion will be decided on an individual basis and after discussion with LA Officers. Contact will be made with the Police. Classcharts points and parents / carers informed.

With any of the above offences, related materials will be confiscated from a student(s) and will only be returned to a parent or carer at an arranged meeting time and not to the student. All incidents will be dealt with on an individual basis and contextual information will be used to support in deciding the sanction.

## Illegal substances

Any student who is found to be in possession, using or distributing an illegal substance will be automatically reported to the Police. School based sanctions will be discussed on an individual basis and a variety of information will be used to determine the appropriate sanction. This might include:

- Fixed-term exclusion
- Referrals to multi-agencies such as YOS, Barod, Police, YEPS
- Permanent exclusion

In all instances the substance will be confiscated from the student and passed to the police.

## Offensive Weapons

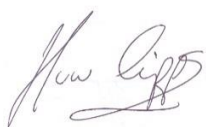
Any student who is found to be in possession, using, threatening to use or distributing an offensive weapon (s) will be immediately reported to the Police. Parents and carers will be contacted.

If it is deemed that there is a risk to others or themselves the school will telephone 999.

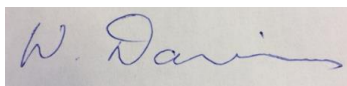
School based sanctions will be discussed on an individual basis. The school will always discuss sanctions with colleagues within the Local Authority to ensure consistency and fairness.

The severity of being in possession, using, threatening to use or distributing an offensive weapon (s) is extremely high. It is therefore likely that sanctions will be a minimum of a fixed-term exclusion and could be a permanent exclusion.

Approved by:



Mr H Cripps, Headteacher



Mr W Davies, Chair of Governors

## Appendix 1: The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 categorises substances into Classes A-C. Class A drugs are seen to pose the most danger.

<b>Class A</b>	Magic Mushrooms Heroin / Opium Methadone Morphine Ecstasy Cocaine Crack LSD
<b>Class B</b>	Amphetamine Barbiturates Dihydrocodiene Cannabis
<b>Class C</b>	Benzodiazepines (Diazepam / Temazepam) Nitazepam (without a prescription) Anabolic Steroids GHB

**Any drug prepared for injection automatically becomes a Class A substance.**

## PENALTIES

### Maximum Recommended Sentences:

	<b>POSSESSION</b>	<b>TRAFFICKING/SUPPLY</b>
<b>Class A</b>	7 years & fine	Life & fine
<b>Class B</b>	5 years & fine	14 years & fine
<b>Class C</b>	2 years & fine	14 years & fine