

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping Education

Our approach

At Penwortham Priory Academy, we are committed to promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of all young people. Drug, alcohol and substance education forms an important part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme in Learning for Life and supports our wider safeguarding responsibilities.

We recognise that young people may encounter a range of substances and influences throughout their lives. Our role is to provide accurate information, develop critical thinking skills and help young people make informed, healthy and safe choices.

The academy does not condone the misuse of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping products or other harmful substances. We are committed to supporting young people through education, early intervention and appropriate pastoral care when concerns arise.

Why we teach drug education

Drug education helps young people:

- Understand the physical, emotional and social risks associated with substance misuse.
- Recognise the impact that drugs, alcohol and vaping can have on health, relationships and future opportunities.
- Develop resilience, decision-making and risk-management skills.
- Recognise influences such as peer pressure, social media and advertising.
- Know how and where to seek support for themselves or others.
- Understand the law relating to legal and illegal substances.
- Develop the confidence to make safe and informed choices.

What young people learn

Drug and substance education is delivered through our PSHE curriculum, assemblies, themed events and external specialist workshops.

Topics include:

Young people learn about:

- Healthy lifestyles and looking after physical and mental wellbeing.
- The effects of tobacco, alcohol and vaping.
- The safe use of medicines.
- Risks associated with drugs and substance misuse.
- Peer influence and pressure.

- Strategies for staying safe and seeking help.
- The short and long-term effects of substance misuse.
- Addiction and dependency.
- Legal consequences of drug-related offences.
- The links between substance misuse, mental health and personal wellbeing.
- Risk-taking behaviours and managing influence.
- Support services available locally and nationally.

Developing Important Life Skills

Through our Learning for Life programme, young people develop skills that support lifelong health and wellbeing, including:

- Decision-making and problem-solving.
- Assertiveness and communication.
- Managing risk.
- Critical thinking.
- Help-seeking and self-advocacy.
- Building resilience and self-confidence.

Safeguarding and support

The welfare of our young people is our priority.

Where concerns arise regarding alcohol, drugs, vaping or other substances, the academy will take a supportive and safeguarding-led approach. Each case is considered individually, taking account of the circumstances, level of risk and the support needs of the young person.

Parents and carers will normally be informed when concerns are identified, and we will work in partnership to secure the best outcomes for the young person.

Where appropriate, we may seek support from external agencies, including:

- Lancashire Children's Services
- Police
- School Health Services
- School Nurse
- We Are With You
- Smoke Free
- Young People's Substance Misuse Services
- Early Help Services
- Mental Health Support Services

Working in partnership

Effective drug education is most successful when schools, families and external agencies work together. We encourage parents and carers to discuss health, wellbeing and personal safety with their children and to contact the academy if they have any concerns.

Our commitment

Penwortham Priory Academy is committed to creating a safe, supportive and inclusive environment where all young people can develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to make positive choices, maintain healthy lifestyles and fulfil their potential.