

CALDER HOUSE SCHOOL

Thickwood Lane, Colerne, Near Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 8BN

POLICY ON THE USE AND ABUSE OF DRUGS

Calder House is a preparatory day school for pupils with specific learning difficulties and as such it is aware that pupils may be vulnerable to peer pressure because of low self-esteem. The purpose of this policy is to clarify for parents the school's stance on substance abuse and to give guidance to school staff on their responsibilities in respect of pupil education and protection in this area.

Calder House defines drugs as a substance, which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things and the way our body works. This definition includes both substances, which in some circumstances can be used legally, such as alcohol, tobacco and medicines, and illegal substances, such as cannabis and heroin.

Calder House is a no smoking establishment.

Key Principles

The school aims to equip its pupils with knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to make choices, which lead to a healthy lifestyle. It adopts a whole school approach to drug education within the curriculum. It wishes to support and protect all members of the school community through clear and consistent policies.

Drug Education

The Head will ensure that education in the use and abuse of drugs is integrated throughout the curriculum, and that links with outside school activities are fully explored. The primary curriculum area for delivery of this policy will be SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) lessons but there will be opportunities in Science for substance abuse to be directly addressed and in any lesson teachers may have opportunities on an adhoc basis to address substance abuse issues raised by pupils and should seize the opportunity to do so.

Managing "Drugs"

School must be perceived as a safe and healthy environment and the presence in school of any noxious substance, whether by pupils or staff, will normally be deemed unacceptable. It should be noted that:

- Under no circumstance may any member of staff on school premises smoke tobacco or other substance;
- Under no circumstances may any member of staff consume alcohol while pupils remain on the premises, or work under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- The school's policy on medicines is set out below and must be adhered to;



- Solvents must be kept in a locked cabinet and at no time be available to unsupervised pupils.

Policy on Medicines

Any medication brought into school by pupils must be handed over to The Head who will keep it in a safe place. She or a teacher delegated by her will administer the medication as required to the relevant pupil provided that she has received written authority from the parent concerned so to do.

Any medication brought into school by a member of staff, for their own use, must be kept in a safe place, **which is inaccessible to pupils.**

Under no circumstances may any member of staff administer medication to any pupil without the express written consent of the relevant parent who must also supply that medication.

(See medical conditions policy and associated paperwork)

Whistle Blowing

Where it comes to the attention of the school that any member of staff or any pupil is suspected of the misuse of substances on school premises the school will respond through The Head and the Governing Body acting together. The school's first responsibility is for the care and welfare for the individual concerned balanced by the need to protect the community as a whole.

The school will respond to suspicion as well as to explicit disclosure and discovery. In each case the response will be proportional and measured in relation to the incident. It may be necessary to involve parents, the police or other support agency in the case of pupils. In the case of members of staff, it will involve the reconsideration of employment. The Governing Body will evaluate each situation on its merits considering verifiable facts and all surrounding circumstances.

This policy has links with the school child-protection policy, Health and safety of children on school trips policy, health and safety policy, whistle-blowing policy and the school's positive behaviour policy.

(October 2017)

