

# CALDER HOUSE SCHOOL

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

## POLICY ON THE USE AND ABUSE OF DRUGS

### Principles

The purpose of this document is to set out our School's policy on substance abuse and to give guidance to our staff on their responsibilities to educate and safeguard pupils in this area.

Calder House recognises that all schools have a statutory duty to promote pupils' wellbeing and a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. This includes the organisation and delivery of drug education, and the management of drugs and medicines within school boundaries and on school trips.

Our Drugs Policy has been drawn up with reference to the Drug Advice for Schools published by the DfE and ACPO.

This policy applies to all member of staff and pupils at Calder House as well as anyone on school premises. The person with designated responsibility for Calder House's policy on drugs, and all related issues, is the Head of School, Julie Delahay.

Calder House defines a drug 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 can be used legally, such as alcohol, tobacco and medicines, as well as illegal substances, such as cannabis and heroin.

Calder House recognises that children with specific learning difficulties may underestimate danger and may be particularly vulnerable to peer pressure. It follows that pupils at Calder House may be at greater risk of harm from drugs than other children of a similar age.

### Education

Calder House aims to equip its pupils with the understanding and skills that they will need in order to make informed and independent choices, and enjoy a healthy lifestyle. We adopt a whole school approach to teaching children about the use/misuse of drugs across the curriculum, in whole school assemblies and safeguarding workshops/activities but this topic is also specifically addressed within our curriculum for PSHE/RSE.

Within PSHE/RSE, pupils at Calder House are taught about the use and misuse of legal and illegal drugs. They learn about the risks and effects of legal drugs common in everyday life (e.g. cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vaping, alcohol and medicines) and their impact on health. They learn that drug use can become a habit and an addiction, which can be difficult to break, and that there are laws surrounding the use of legal drugs and that some drugs are illegal to own, use and give to others. Pupils are also taught about the social norms regarding drugs including alcohol and tobacco; myths and misconceptions about drug use; and the dangers and risks associated with substance abuse.

Pupils at Calder House are actively encouraged to ask questions. Our staff strive to create a friendly, honest and open environment in which children feel safe and can ask questions about anything – including drugs. Our staff will always try to provide straightforward answers in line with our curriculum objectives and values.



## **Medication**

Pupils are not permitted to have any medication in their possession while at school under any circumstances.

If a child requires medication while at school, this medication must be brought into school by an adult and handed to a member of staff with **written instructions** authorising its use and setting out how/when it is to be administered. Staff are not permitted to administer medication without written instructions from parents. Pupils are forbidden to bring medicine into school – even with the intention of bringing it to a teacher.

Pupils' medication will be stored in a locked cabinet in the medical room.

In line with NHS advice, Calder House will not administer aspirin to any pupil without explicit authorisation from a doctor.

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.

## **Drugs in School**

Calder House is determined to create a safe and healthy environment for pupils and staff. With the exception of prescribed medicines brought into school by an adult, the presence in school of any drugs, whether by pupils or staff, will normally be deemed unacceptable.

Smoking is not permitted on school premises.

Alcohol will not be offered to parents, staff or visitors at events in school during normal school hours or when pupils are present although it may be served at events that take place in the evening, outside of normal school hours (e.g. "Meet the Team") that are not attended by pupils.

Solvents must be kept in a locked cabinet and pupils will not be given access to them without strict adult supervision.

Any adult who appears to be under the influence of any substance (including an adult who smells of alcohol) will not be allowed to remain on school premises.

The school will not permit a child to leave school with an adult who appears to be under the influence of any substance.

If any member of our school community is suspected of possessing or misusing drugs on school premises the matter will be immediately and thoroughly investigated by the Head of School or another member of the SMT.

Illegal drugs, legal drugs (including medicines), solvents, alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes are all considered prohibited items, which pupils are forbidden to bring into school. A full list of prohibited items is available from the school website.

A pupil suspected of having a prohibited item, and that pupil's property, may be searched in line with the Government's advice to schools on Searching, Screening and Confiscating (Published January 2018).



If a member of our school's community is found in possession of drugs the School's response should reflect our responsibility for the care and welfare for the individual concerned balanced by the need to protect the community as a whole. Each case will be treated on an individual basis and it is the responsibility of the Head of School to ensure that the School's response is fair and proportionate. However, the School reserves the right to end the placement of a pupil in breach of this policy and terminate the employment of any member of staff who does so.

The parents of any pupil who breaches the School's policy on drugs will be informed as a matter of course. It may also be necessary to involve other safeguarding agencies including the police.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents also published by the School:

- CHS Parents Handbook
- CHS PSHE/RSE Policy
- CHS Medical Conditions Policy
- CHS Child Protection Policy
- CHS Policy on Prohibited Items

This Policy was last reviewed in December 2020

