

**Carterhatch**



**Infant School**

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## **Drug and Alcohol Policy Pupils and Staff**

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## Statement of intent

At Carterhatch Infant School, we are committed to promoting a safe, healthy and productive environment for all. This policy provides a framework for how we will deal with any problems arising from substance use and misuse.

We have a zero-tolerance approach towards the misuse of drugs and alcohol on the premises, and will not take such incidents lightly; however, we recognise that the misuse of drugs and alcohol may indicate a significant health concern and, as such, we aim to support employees in these situations.

This policy has been created to outline staff members' responsibilities in relation to their conduct and use of drugs and alcohol, as well as the disciplinary procedures if this policy is breached.

# 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Health Act 2006
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Education Act 2011
- DfE (2012) 'DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools'
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and behaviour in schools'
- DfE (2022) 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
- Health and Safety Policy
- Smoke-free Policy
- First Aid and Welfare Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy

# 2. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, “**drug**” is defined as any substance which, when ingested, alters perception and how the body works. This definition includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- All illegal substances
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Solvents
- Medicines
- Legal highs

# 3. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Ensuring that effective policies and procedures are in place pertaining to the misuse of alcohol and drugs at school.
- Ensuring that this policy is maintained and disseminated to all staff.
- Ensuring that staff experiencing difficulties with alcohol and/or drugs can access the support they need.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day management of this policy.
- Providing a safe environment for all staff, pupils and visitors.
- Working with governors to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Dealing with any alcohol- or drug-related issues within the school.
- Deciding upon any disciplinary action that will take place.
- Ensuring appropriate support mechanisms are in place to promote staff members' health and wellbeing.
- Informing the governing board of any issues and developments concerning drugs and alcohol.
- Acting on any concerns arising from pupils' use of drugs and alcohol.
- Informing parents of any drug- and alcohol-related incidents concerning their child, where appropriate and where doing so will not place the child at risk.
- Inviting the local police and drugs team into school to raise awareness of the risks and issues associated with drugs.
- Informing the police of any drug- or alcohol-related decision, where they deem it appropriate to do so.
- Ensuring a consistent approach to managing drug and alcohol incidents.

The DSL will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff have the skills to teach and discuss issues relating to drugs and alcohol.
- Ensuring that pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol are provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate.
- Consulting with pupils to inform provision around drugs and alcohol education.
- Accessing appropriate training to enable them to successfully advise the school on drug and alcohol matters.
- Liaising with local services as necessary to provide support for pupils.
- Assisting with the monitoring and review of this policy.

All staff members are responsible for:

- Adhering to the procedures outlined in this policy.
- Taking reasonable care whilst at work, ensuring they do not endanger themselves or others.
- Bringing any alcohol- or drug-related issues to the attention of the headteacher; this includes in relation to themselves or other staff members.
- Ensuring that they report for work and remain in a condition to perform their duties free from the effects of drugs, alcohol or any other substances that may hinder judgement and cause changes in behaviour; this does not include over-the-counter painkillers such as paracetamol.
- Reporting concerns regarding pupils' use of drugs and alcohol to the DSL.

The site manager will be responsible for:

- Regularly checking the school premises for signs of drug and alcohol use and reporting any concerns to the DSL.

- Adhering to the Health and Safety Policy when handling needles found on school premises.

## 4. Staff training and the curriculum

Staff members will receive annual reminders regarding alcohol- and drug-related issues, as well as the support available to them.

Management staff, including the headteacher, will receive regular training/support in the following areas:

- How to implement and enforce this policy
- How to recognise the signs of alcohol and substance misuse and the effects on the performance, attendance and health of staff.
- How to provide early and non-judgemental intervention for staff who are exhibiting indicators of substance abuse .
- How to provide support and assistance to staff where appropriate.
- The level of confidentiality with which such matters should be treated.

The importance of reporting issues to management will be highlighted to encourage staff members to seek help.

Staff members will also receive additional training in response to any current issues.

The school recognises that early intervention can prevent drug misuse. As such, all staff will receive child protection and safeguarding training in identifying the signs that a pupil may be at risk, experiencing harm or is struggling upon induction and this will be refreshed **annually**. Staff will also receive regular and ongoing training as part of their professional development.

All staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a pupil who is misusing alcohol and other drugs themselves, or is in a family circumstance presenting challenges that includes drug and alcohol misuse.

All pupils will receive regular guidance on drugs and alcohol as part of the relationships and health education curriculum, in line with the Primary Relationships and Health Education Policy.

Lessons will be delivered as appropriate to the age and phase of the pupils and will be differentiated according to individual learning styles.

## 5. Smoking and the use of e-cigarettes

In line with the Health Act 2006, the school is strictly a smoke-free environment; there are no designated areas available anywhere on school premises for smoking.

Smoking is not permitted in any personal vehicles on the school premises.

Any individual who is witnessed smoking on the school premises will be subject to disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the school's Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.

Although the school recognises that the use of e-cigarettes has significant potential to reduce tobacco use and the harmful effects of smoking, it is the school's position that the use of e-cigarettes still poses some safety hazards.

Staff members will adhere to all procedures outlined in the school's Smoke-Free Policy.

## 6. Legal drugs and prescribed medicines

### STAFF

The school understands that some staff members may require medication that has been prescribed by a doctor or other health professional. Staff members will notify the headteacher if they are required to take legal drugs or prescribed medicines.

Staff members will notify the headteacher of any side effects of medicines; if it is believed the side effects will affect their work, the headteacher will decide whether the staff member should return home until they are feeling better.

The school will only allow medicines which have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist, with the exception of over-the-counter painkillers, e.g. paracetamol, which may be taken in moderation.

Medicines will only be brought on to the premises if it would be detrimental to the staff member's health not to administer them whilst at school. Medicines will be stored in locked cabinets which cannot be accessed by pupils.

Staff members will not exceed the maximum dosage of any legal drugs or prescribed medicines. Staff members will also avoid taking legal drugs and medicines in the presence of pupils.

### PUPILS

The school recognises that some pupils may require medications that have been prescribed by a doctor or other health professional. Parents have the primary responsibility for their child's health and the school will request all relevant information about pupils' medical conditions from parents.

Medicines will only be permitted to be brought onto the premises if it would be detrimental to the child's health if medicines were not administered during their time at the school.

The school will only accept medicines which have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist, with the exception of non-prescription medicines, e.g. paracetamol, which may be taken in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The school will only accept medicines which are provided in the original container as dispensed and include the prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage.

Further guidance can be found in the school's Administering Medication Policy.

## 7. Alcohol and illegal drugs

Staff members are not permitted to consume alcohol or illegal drugs when carrying out their duties; this includes both on and off the premises, e.g. during school trips.

Staff members are instructed that they should not carry out their duties whilst under the influence of alcohol; this includes smelling of alcohol and exhibiting alcohol-related behaviours, e.g. slurring or unsteadiness.

Every member of staff is responsible for regulating their behaviour and is aware that they may be subject to disciplinary action.

**SEARCHING A STAFF MEMBER** - Staff members will not be searched for alcohol or drugs unless they refuse to hand over any substance reasonably suspected to be in their possession. Every effort will be made to encourage the staff member to hand over any substance suspected to be in their possession.

Where a staff member refuses to adhere to the above, the substance is believed to be illegal and it is considered appropriate to engage in formal proceedings, the school may search the employee in line with the following:

- The staff member consents to the search.
- A second witness will be present.
- The substance will be sealed in a plastic bag.
- A record will be kept of the details of the substance, the date and time it was found, and the name of the second witness.
- The police will be notified immediately.
- Details of the incident, including the police incident reference number, will be included on the record.

Any substances found will be stored in a secure location, locked in the Headteachers office, before they are handed to the police.

Where the staff member does not consent, no search will be undertaken, and this will be managed in line with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.

The police will deal with the situation in line with agreed protocols, and the staff member will be subject to an investigation and any appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure. A full incident report will be completed and submitted to the headteacher.

If a staff member has alcohol in their possession, this will not be confiscated, but they will be instructed to store this in a locked cabinet inaccessible by pupils and not retrieve this until the end of the school day, or until they have finished carrying out their duties.

**SEARCHING A PUPIL** - Under part 2, section 2 of the Education Act 2011, teachers are authorised by the headteacher to search for any prohibited item including, but not limited to, tobacco, cigarette papers, illegal drugs and alcohol, without the consent of the pupil, if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item. Staff members may use common law to search pupils for any item with their consent.

A staff member carrying out the search can confiscate anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item under legislation or school rules. This includes “legal highs” and other potentially harmful materials which cannot immediately be identified. Any staff member, except for security staff, may refuse to conduct a search.

All searches will be conducted in line with the Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy, and the Physical Intervention Policy where physical contact with a pupil is required.

## 8. Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous solvents are stored safely. Further information regarding solvents can be found within the school’s COSHH Policy.

## 9. Disciplinary action

Disciplinary action will occur where staff members:

- Enter the school premises under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Are found to have illegal drugs in their possession.
- Consume alcohol or drugs whilst carrying out their duties.

Disciplinary action will be dealt with in accordance with the school’s Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

Once disciplinary action has begun, staff members will be invited to attend a formal meeting with the headteacher, in order to discover whether an alcohol or drug problem exists.

Where a breach of procedures occurs, but it is established that an alcohol- or drug-related problem exists, and the staff member is willing to cooperate with the support offered to them, the school may decide not to issue disciplinary action.

An exception to the above would be where gross misconduct has occurred and disciplinary action is necessary regardless of whether they are willing to cooperate with support offered – this decision is at the discretion of the headteacher.

Staff who do not comply with the support offered, or continue to misuse alcohol and drugs, will be subject to disciplinary action.

## 10. Identifying a problem

Misuse of alcohol and drugs which affects performance and behaviour at work, e.g. through serious misconduct or an inability to meet standards of work performance, will not be tolerated.

A formal meeting will be held to discuss the problem and the headteacher will make a referral to the Occupational Health service. The Occupational Health service will be responsible for conducting an assessment of the member of staff, collecting relevant information and providing a management report. Disciplinary action will not commence until advice is obtained from the Occupational Health service, unless gross misconduct has occurred. If necessary, suspension arrangements will be followed.

The Occupational Health service will be responsible for monitoring the member of staff's progress; where there is a lack of progress, the headteacher will conduct another review with the staff member to consider whether disciplinary action is necessary. The school will aim to accommodate any recommendations made by the Occupational Health service, such as where the staff member has been off work, and they require supervision upon their return.

If a member of staff misuses alcohol or drugs after support has been offered to them, the school will decide whether a second referral is appropriate, or in cases of gross misconduct, whether disciplinary action should be followed immediately without support.

Should the problems of the member of staff develop to an extent that continuation in their role is impossible, the school may identify alternative work arrangements or arrange for dismissal in line with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure. If the problem is directly affecting the staff member's performance, but they do not wish to address it, reject the support offered to them, or fail to cooperate in their referral, disciplinary action will commence immediately.

## 11. Situations without disciplinary action

The school understands that staff members could have a drug or alcohol problem, although it may not directly affect their work performance or behaviour. This could arise where a member of staff confides in another staff member, or the headteacher has identified possible indicators of a problem and may wish to approach the individual, e.g. through a regular absence pattern.

Through regular training, the school will highlight the importance of discussion and encourage staff to seek help from their employer or line manager in these situations.

If an employee seeks help with an alcohol- or drug-related problem from HR or a member of management staff and wishes to keep this confidential from other staff, this will be respected unless there is a reason to believe that this could put that staff member, their colleagues, pupils, or anyone else at risk. Any staff member who approaches their alcohol- or drug-related problem in this way will be strongly encouraged to seek external help, e.g. through the Occupational Health service.

Where the school is faced with this problem, the headteacher will:

- Seek advice from the Occupational Health service regarding whether, and how, the matter should be dealt with.
- Provide support for the member of staff and, if appropriate, arrange for the member of staff to be referred to the Occupational Health service.
- Where a problem exists, allow the Occupational Health service to establish, monitor and review support for the member of staff.

The school recognises that the above procedures cannot take place without the cooperation of the staff member. If the staff member does not wish to participate, no further action will be required.

The headteacher may provide the staff member with references to external support organisations, should they wish to access them.

If a staff member decides to engage in the support offered by the Occupational Health service, there will be no further involvement from the school, unless the problem begins to affect their work performance. If the problem begins to affect their work performance, disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [Disciplinary action](#) section of this policy.

## 12. Medical emergencies

In alcohol- and drug-related emergencies, trained first aiders will be contacted. A staff member will remain with the casualty until the first aider arrives.

Any other pupils or staff members will be removed from the immediate area, as soon as reasonably practicable.

Following an assessment by the first aider, a decision will be made to ascertain whether an ambulance should be called.

The staff member's immediate family will be contacted to inform them of the incident.

Further information regarding medical emergencies can be sought from the First Aid Policy.

## 13. Threatening behaviour

Threatening or aggressive behaviour by staff members under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be taken very seriously.

Where threatening or aggressive behaviour is displayed, the school will not hesitate to contact the police. Any staff member displaying threatening or aggressive behaviour will be removed from the premises, and later disciplined in line with the school's Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.

## 14. Safeguarding

The school understands that the misuse of drugs and alcohol can often be a sign of underlying issues.

Staff members will be aware of the fact that alcohol and drug misuse can be an indicator of a safeguarding concern and is often an indicator of both child criminal and sexual exploitation.

All staff are aware that behaviours linked to issues such as drug and alcohol misuse put pupils in danger. Staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a pupil who is misusing drugs or alcohol, or where it is observed or suspected that their parents or family members misuse drugs.

Pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol will be provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate. Support will be arranged and offered to pupils in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy.

## 15. Child Criminal Exploitation

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or threats of violence. CCE can include children being coerced into moving, storing and selling drugs across the country (known as county lines).

Staff will be aware of the indicators that may suggest a pupil is being criminally exploited through involvement in county lines, including where pupils:

- Have gone missing and are subsequently found in areas away from their home.
- Have been a victim or perpetrator of serious violence, e.g. knife crime.
- Have been involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs.
- Are exposed to techniques such as 'plugging', where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection.
- Are found in accommodation that they have no connection with.
- Owe a 'debt bond' to their exploiters.
- Have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing.

Staff will be made aware of the following potential indicators of CCE for pupils:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing
- Misusing drugs and alcohol
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late
- Regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education

Staff members will be aware that illegal drug use or possession by pupils may indicate that they are victims of exploitation, even if it appears that illegal activity regarding drugs is something to which they have consented. The DSL will use their professional judgement to consider CCE as an explanation for a pupil's drug-related behaviour before pursuing other support and disciplinary procedures, rather than making assumptions about the pupil's intentions.

Staff will be alert to the indicators above and all concerns relating to CCE will be managed in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## 16. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher; any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is October 2026.

# Drug Related Incident Response Flowchart



