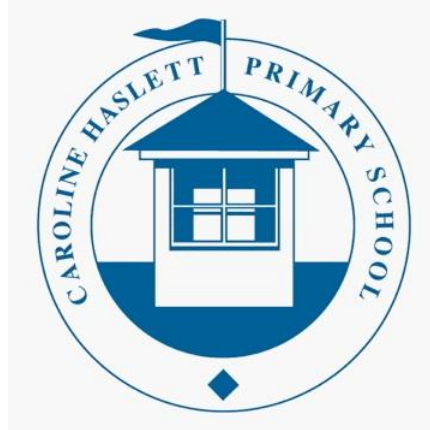


Caroline Haslett Primary School & Faraday Club



Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Date of Issue: May 2025

Date of next review: May 2026 (or earlier in the event of legislation changes)

Approved by the Headteacher on:

Signed: _____ (Headteacher) **Date:** _____

Approved by the Governing Board on:

Signed: _____ (Chair of Governors) **Date:** _____

1. Introduction

At Caroline Haslett School we understand that drugs can impact on children's education, their relationships with family and friends and prevent them from reaching their full potential. All children and young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal. Drugs education plays a central role in helping them make such decisions: by providing education about the risk and effects of drugs; by developing their confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; by creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those for whom drugs are a concern receive appropriate support.

The term 'drugs' in this policy refers to alcohol, tobacco, medicines, volatile substances (e.g. aerosols, solvents, glue or petrol) cannabis, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and psychoactive substances.

2. Aims

Current National Guidance states the purposes of drug education

- To give young people the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate them to their own actions, both now and in their future life.
- To provide accurate and up to date information on drugs and their effects on health, and on the risks and legal aspects of drug taking, so that pupils are enabled to distinguish fact from myth. Furthermore, drug education should introduce opportunities to enhance pupils' self respect, personal competence and self-esteem by enabling them to:
 - Make informed decisions and choices
 - Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
 - Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others
 - Maintain and develop relationships
 - Develop self-confidence and improve self-esteem
 - Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
 - Develop the motivation to succeed

At Caroline Haslett School, the whole-school approach to drug education supports this purpose and the implementation is set up to fulfil these aims. We aim to extend the child's knowledge of themselves and the world they live in, by providing a caring, secure and supportive environment. We hope that children will make informed choices as a result of this policy.

3. Context

Drugs Education should be:

- delivered in a clear and honest manner that informs without encouraging drug misuse
- encouraging active pupil participation backed up with adequate teacher supervision
- provided to pupils at regular intervals throughout the school career so as to maximise its effectiveness

- provided by teachers and other professionals with specific training in the requirements of drug education and issues relating to drug misuse
- evaluated
- backed up with access to advice or help for pupils with problems or concerns.

These objectives are fulfilled through aspects of the pupils' experiences in the taught curriculum and the informal curriculum. Through the curriculum this is taught mainly through PSHE and Science, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the curriculum.

At Caroline Haslett School, a coherent and continuous drug education programme operates as part of the whole school approach to PSHE, with some input in each year of the school.

Each child will have access to drug education regardless of gender, ability or race. Access will be matched to their particular needs or concerns of the class. Children with special educational needs or who have English as an additional language will be given additional support to understand the effects and misuse of drugs. Follow-up discussions in class will aim to consolidate the children's understanding and learning and be an opportunity for any children to raise queries or ask further questions. Children will be made aware of the effects of drugs for the individual, the family and the wider community.

4. Curriculum

Key Stage 1

The following outlines the topics covered:

- Medicines
- Household substances
- The dangers of smoking
- The dangers of alcohol

Key Stage 2

The following outlines the topics covered:

- Risk taking and dealing with pressure
- Effects and risks of smoking
- Effects and risks of drinking alcohol
- Attitudes to alcohol
- Effects and risks of taking illegal drugs
- Attitudes to illegal drugs

The delivery of drug education occurs primarily in the class teaching of PSHE.

The following principles are applied during drug education delivery:

- Ground rules are negotiated for the discussion of this sensitive issue, including disclosure, confidentiality, and child protection issues.
- An assessment is made of where pupils are at in terms of e.g. knowledge,

language, skills, interest and anxieties.

- A range of teaching methods are used, in order to encourage the interactive participation of all pupils.
- Only comprehensive, accurate, up-to-date and unbiased information is provided for pupils.
- Pupils are given an opportunity to reflect on their learning.

Evaluation, based on the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, is carried out with the pupils through work scrutiny and pupil voice - the results of which are fed back to staff

5. Confidentiality

Teachers cannot, and should not, promise total confidentiality. This should be made clear to the children. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive or not generally known and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, it should be discussed with one of the designated safeguarding team. It is essential for teachers to fulfill their professional responsibilities in relations to:

- Child protection
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referral to external services.

6. The Management of Drugs Related Incidents

Today's children are under increased influences and pressures and their knowledge of drugs in society have been accelerated by constant media coverage. Although we feel that drug related incidents are likely to be rare, we do realise the importance of having a policy that outlines the management of such incidents should they occur.

All adults within the school need to be aware of how to deal with such situations and their effect on the pupil, family, school and themselves. The overall welfare of the children involved and their parents will be kept in mind at all times.

6.1. Suspicion/hearsay

Any hearsay/rumour about pupil drug use will be carefully evaluated in the light of the school's own knowledge about the pupil and sensitively investigated before any action is taken. Next, steps will be taken to challenge the rumour and its effects, e.g. challenging the behaviour that might have led to the rumour and challenging the source of the rumour. If the rumour is found to be true, the Head Teacher will follow steps 3 and 4 outlined below.

6.2. Possession

If a child is found with, or suspected of possessing, a harmful substance, it will be removed by the member of staff who discovered it. Ideally, another adult should witness this transfer. This is to ensure that there is no accusation of a member of staff being in possession of the substance rather than the child. The situation will be

investigated promptly and thoroughly and a written record made.

6.3. Consultation

The Head Teacher will be informed immediately and the child will be taken to the Head's office. The Head will then explain the seriousness of the incident to the child before informing the parents, who will be asked to come to the school. The Police will be called if the substance is believed to be an illegal one.

6.4. Contacting Parents

Parents will always be informed when a case of substance misuse has been positively identified. A three-way discussion will occur between all parties to ascertain the best way forward. This may include the involvement of outside agencies and the Police, especially in the case of drugs and solvents.

6.5. First Aid

Pupils deemed to need first aid at the time of the incident will be assessed by a qualified member of staff, who will decide if any further assistance is required.

6.6. Recording Incidents

All drug related incidents will be recorded and kept in the confidential filing system.

6.7. Disposal of Substances

Unprescribed drugs and solvents will be disposed of in the manner advised by the Police.

6.8. Disclosure About Substance Abuse

The Head will follow up and deal with any information about substance abuse that is disclosed by a pupil. The school recognises that some of its pupils may have a parent whose drug use (legal or illegal) may be problematic. The pupil's welfare in this case is paramount and any information disclosed about substance abuse, within a pupil's home environment or local area, would be followed up by the Head Teacher. It may be deemed necessary to inform Social Services and/or the Police. The school will act within the legal limits that it can, to support the pupil in a variety of ways, practically and emotionally.

6.9. Background Issues: Health and Safety

The public can gain access to the site, so it is feasible that evidence of drugs misuse may be found on site. The Caretaker and /or staff supervising playtimes check the playground and grassy area to ensure they are safe for the children. When handling any substances that are believed to be harmful or drugs related, no direct contact should be made. Syringes should be placed in a heavy plastic container until advice can be sought about their safe disposal.

7. Drugs and Alcohol in School

The consumption of illegal drugs on the school premises by staff members is strictly prohibited and will be immediately reported to the police.

There may be occasions when the school may consider it appropriate to sanction the use of alcohol on the premises, i.e. an adult social function. On such occasions, the alcohol should be stored in a safe and secure location. Staff are not permitted to consume alcohol on the premises outside of such occasions.

Staff members do not take alcohol on site during the school's opening times or when they are off site leading day visits or residential trips.

8. Tobacco

The school is a designated non-smoking, including vaping, area.

9. Medication in school

Prescribed drugs can be administered for the benefit of a child's long-term health, eg. asthma sufferers will be supervised in the taking of their daily inhaler. Children's personal inhalers will be kept in class and taken to the swimming pool and on school trips. An emergency inhaler is kept in the medical room. Long-term medication and Epipens are kept in a sealed, named box in the medical room, with a photograph of the child and a care plan drawn up between the school nursing service and the parents. Other allergy medication is labelled and kept in the school medical room. Painkillers or antibiotics, that are required to be taken during school hours, can be administered with parents' written consent. It must be a single dose for that day and handed into the office by a parent.