



WOODLANDS
SCHOOL

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

Anti-Drugs Policy

Amended: October 2025

Approved by Governors: December 2025

Review date: October 2026

Woodlands School is part of The Compass Education Trust Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales Company number 07666213.
Registered Office: The Billericay School, School Road, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9LH

Purpose

Schools and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

(Keeping Children Safe in Education – DfE, September 2025)

To achieve our aims, we must:

- Provide opportunity and access to major areas of learning and experience, including aesthetic and creative, human and social, linguistic and literary, mathematical, moral, physical, scientific, spiritual and technological;
- Encourage pupils in their learning through active learning, differentiated teaching, effective assessment, feedback and target setting;
- Enable pupils to develop the skills needed to learn and achieve, including oracy, literacy, numeracy, information technology, problem solving, collaboration, negotiation, self-assessment, critical reasoning and independent learning;
- Extend pupils fully by encouraging perseverance and aiming for maximum success and excellence in all things, especially public examinations, and by continually monitoring their progress;
- Support pupils in developing a sense of right and wrong, through example, fair and clear rules and discipline, behaviour for learning and an understanding of moral and social issues;
- Prepare pupils for a positive role in the world beyond school through education in equal opportunities, political understanding, economic awareness, health, careers, community affairs, the environment and personal development;
- Provide a professional workforce of teaching and support staff who in turn are supported in their work by sound management, consistent INSET and staff development and adequate resources.

Aims of Anti-Drugs Policy

As a school we endeavour to encourage positive attitudes to life and to safeguard the well-being, health and safety of all member of our school community. Within this, we acknowledge our responsibility to educate pupils about the dangers and consequences of drug and substance abuse. To help our pupils to make healthy and informed choices we aim to:

- Provide accurate information about drugs and substances;
- Increase pupil understanding about the dangers and consequences of drug, solvent and alcohol abuse;
- Help pupils to develop self-esteem, and practice interpersonal skills (e.g. how to be assertive and resist peer pressure);
- Widen pupil understanding about related health and social issues e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS;
- Seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face;
- Enable our pupils to identify sources of appropriate support both within and outside the school.

These **aims** are principally **fulfilled** through:

- The curriculum in AROE (covering Relationships, Sex and Health education) and Science.

Topic	Objectives
Recreational drugs: Impact of legal drugs on health is greater than illegal drugs as more people use them.	Evaluate the impact of smoking, vaping and alcohol on health. Evaluate why some people use illegal drugs for recreation. Evaluate claims made about the effect of prescribed and non-prescribed drugs on health.
Recreational drugs: Cannabis Drug addiction and withdrawal symptoms – heroin and cocaine.	Describe the effects of cannabis on the body. Consider the possible progression from recreational to hard drugs. Describe the effects of heroin/cocaine addiction and withdrawal symptoms.
Steroids and performance enhancing drugs.	Evaluate the use of drugs to enhance performance in sport. Consider the ethical issues of performance enhancing drugs. Describe some effects and risks of these drugs Use of Anabolic steroids
Develop skills in handling pressure and influence.	Explore the difference between passive and assertive. Develop skills in saying ‘no’ Understanding what makes an individual vulnerable to influence and substances
Identifying support	Identify where to access support related to substances www.nhs.uk www.talktofrank.com www.mind.org.uk www.youngminds.org.uk

- The pastoral curriculum in assemblies and tutor time activities.
- Extra-curricular activities (e.g. education extra activities, exhibitions, theatre trips, visits from theatre/drama companies etc.).

The Role of Outside Agencies


- The school actively co-operates with outside agencies such as the Police, Health Authority, Social Services and LEA in order to implement our Anti-Drugs Policy.
- Governors and parents have been actively involved in drawing up this policy.

Action to be taken as a result of Drug/Substance Abuse

- In the first case, where staff have reason to suspect that a pupil may be using drugs outside school, or if a pupil discloses that they need help and advice on how to avoid further drug/substance misuse or abuse, the member of staff should inform the DSL, Dominic Riste.
- After concerns have been raised, the pupil concerned will be interviewed by an appropriate member of staff; as a result of this interview, a support package will be negotiated.
- In all cases, where drug or substance abuse is believed to be taking place, parents/carers will be informed.

Repercussions

The policy at Woodlands School is that any pupil found to be in possession of, using, supplying/buying, or selling drugs in school can be permanently excluded, and the Police will be informed.

Signed: 

Dated: 8th December 2025

Head Teacher

Signed: 

Dated: 8th December 2025

Vice Chair of Governors