



## DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

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### BACKGROUND

Drug use is a complex issue and it is recognised that drug use problems result from a combination of many contributing factors. The School's response, therefore, is as comprehensive as possible. In addition, a standardised approach to drug education and incidents of use will be maintained at this School as a result of this Policy.

### PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Policy has been established to:

- (1) publish guidelines and sanctions that are relevant to our School;
- (2) address prevention, intervention and sanctions in regard to drug use;
- (3) be consistent with State and Federal laws.

For the purpose of this Policy, a drug is defined as "any substance, with the exception of food and water; which when taken into the body, alters its function physically" - such as analgesics, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, amphetamines, steroids, etc.

While not classified as drugs, solvents (also called volatile substances) are included in the School Drug Policy, e.g. glue and petrol sniffing, etc.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with all other School Policies relating to the pastoral care of students and the management of student behaviour contained in the Staff and Parent Handbooks and documents made available to students on these matters. Specific aspects of the School's Health and Physical Education teaching learning programme as well as the Keeping Safe: Child protection Curriculum will deal with drug use and drug abuse.

The Policy through the identification of drug use, whether or not on School property, seeks to contribute to the maintenance and development of a School Community that is safe and supportive and where drug use is not condoned.

### Application

The Policy has three specific outcomes: prevention, intervention and consequences.

### Prevention

The School's primary purpose is education and a part of this process is to help students gain and clarify information about social issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, and to assist them to develop skills required for immediate and future decision-making.

It is critical at this time when individuals are being required to make decisions about a whole range of behaviours which affect their personal health and well-being, that they learn how to make decisions on matters related to issues such as the use of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs.

It is important too, that at our School, we provide opportunities for people to discuss social (including controversial) topics in an educational climate without feeling they will be misunderstood or reprimanded for their honesty in discussing their values or behaviours, provided that such discussions do not condone, encourage or facilitate any illegal activities. It is also important that a School like ours should take a stand on values and make this clear to the students.

Our School's curriculum includes a Health and Physical Education Programme which incorporates a combination of factual information, attitude and values clarification, and decision-making skills. All students receive instruction in this area and the School will continue to call upon appropriate community resources to keep our courses in this area relevant and accurate. The Keeping Safe: Child protection Curriculum is implemented from Kindergarten through to Year 12 through either the class teacher (in

Primary) or the Pastoral Care Group Tutor in Secondary.

### **Intervention**

The intervention procedure is designed to address drug use incidents in a way that is in the best interest of all parties, while also conforming to legal requirements.

Our School does not permit students to

- smoke tobacco products or e-cigarettes;
- consume alcoholic beverages;
- deliberately inhale solvents;
- consume prescription medication that does not belong to them;
- possess drug-related equipment (Misuse of Drugs Act, 1981) except in cases of lawful medical use;
- possess or use prohibited drugs in accordance with the 1981 Act; when on School premises, at a School function or at any time a student is in uniform, including travelling to and from School, or any School camp, retreat, excursion, or organised function such as a disco, sleepover and dinner dance.

Whatever individuals may think or feel, the law regarding the sale and possession of drugs is clear, and penalties are provided for the conviction of offenders. Members of our School Community are subject to these laws on School grounds as well as off, and members of the School Community have the same responsibility as every other citizen to uphold the law. The community at large expects that a school will convey by its actions and teachings that it does not in any way encourage or condone any form of drug use that is prohibited by this Policy.

### **Consequences**

In the process of learning how to make decisions, some individuals may make errors in judgement. This is a natural developmental process. A school, despite these errors, can accept the person without condoning the behaviour and still create an atmosphere of understanding that the School can use as an opportunity for learning.

The procedures outlined below have the emotional and physical health and welfare of each of the students of our School as a priority, including the student in breach of the School's Drug Policy.

1. Each instance will be considered individually according to the given set of circumstances at the time.
2. Wherever possible, the health and welfare of the individual student involved will be considered in the context of the School environment and its support services.
3. In each instance; the Principal, in consultation with the Executive team and with other relevant members of the teaching and Student Support staff as necessary, will determine which support services are to be called upon, who is to be informed, and any sanctions to be imposed.
4. The parents of the students involved in any instance of drug use will be routinely advised by the Principal, and the consequences that follow.
5. A range of consequences consistent with the requirements of the law, the pastoral care of the students and the need to maintain a safe, secure and supportive learning environment policy will be implemented. These consequences may include, referral to any or all of the following: referral to drug counselling, suspension, expulsion and involvement of the Police.

### **Management Priorities**

The School will ensure that:

- It complies with the legal requirements to protect the health of staff members and students with respect to the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- Information is available to all staff members and students about the School Policy and regulations concerning the use of alcohol and other drugs on the School's premises or while involved in off campus School activities; such information will be couched appropriately for the age of the students concerned.
- Links are maintained with community-based organizations and authorities which have programmes relating to alcohol and other drug use, as appropriate.
- There are designated persons to contact if a person is in need of treatment as a result of alcohol or other drug use while on School premises.
- Instances of alcohol or other drug use by students while on School activities, whether in School or outside, will be reported to the Principal and recorded as required.

- Students who are reported as having been influenced by alcohol or other drugs while on a School activity will be counselled as to the problem they have presented.
- Before any matter is reported to police for investigation, the matter will be appropriately investigated internally by the Principal or the Principal's nominee
- The Chair of School Council will be informed of the incident by the Principal and the police and ASC may be informed at this time.
- The parents of a student who has breached the policy on alcohol and illicit drug use will be contacted by the School without exception.
- Staff members will be made aware of the behaviour presented by persons, who may have taken alcohol or other drugs so that they may recognise such signs if they are presented.
- Discarded syringes found on School premises will be disposed of safely and appropriately.