



# DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

## **Rationale:**

A drug can be defined as *“a substance that changes the way the mind or body functions”*.

Our school has a community responsibility to fully inform our students, staff and whole school community about the effects of drugs and alcohol. Alcohol, although legal, is considered one of the most harmful drugs affecting young people today. Alcohol education will sit within the context of our school’s drug education program.

Drug Education is a joint responsibility between school, home and the broader community. Drug Education will be provided at all levels of schooling and will include specific drug education curriculum as well as resilience education, problem solving skill and appropriate coping strategies.

Drug education will be based on a Harm Minimisation approach.

## **Aims:**

- To provide accurate information regarding the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body.
- To ensure that Drug Education will focus on a prevention model.
- To provide all students with a comprehensive, age appropriate drug education curriculum.
- To ensure that drug education is embedded across all key curriculum learning areas.
- That resilience education forms a strong basis for drug education at our school
- To ensure students have the necessary knowledge and skills to make positive informed choices over their use of alcohol when they reach the legal drinking age.
- To provide opportunities for the broader school community to participate in drug and alcohol education activities.
- To clearly define the processes required when alcohol or drugs have been brought on to the school property or a student or staff member has attended school clearly under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

## **Implementation:**

- Alcohol education activities will be provided, ensuring age appropriateness, as part of our school’s drug education program.

- Curriculum materials such as Get Real, Get Wise, Safe Partying and Re-thinking Drinking and other DE&T resources will be used to form the basis of drug and alcohol education at our school.
- Where appropriate, our school will access agencies within our local community with expertise in the field of alcohol education to participate in classes eg. local police, Community Health Service, Drug and Alcohol counsellors.
- Any lessons taught regarding alcohol will be delivered within the context of a Harm Minimisation approach to drug education.
- Establish a core team of teachers and community members to develop and oversee the implementation of a cross-curricula drug education strategy.
- The strategy will include a specific drug education curriculum provided to each year level.
- Drug Education will be inclusive of resilience education and will encompass problem-solving skills and appropriate coping strategies at all year levels.
- The school will develop a network base of community agencies that may assist in the implementation of drug education.
- Professional development will be provided to ensure staff feel confident in delivering drug education
- The school will provide information sessions for parents around drug education including such programs as Talking Tactics Together and Creating Conversations.
- School Council approval is required before alcohol can be consumed on school premises. Schools Councils must, however, comply with the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998.
- Consumption of alcohol at school events held off premises is subject to laws associated with provision of alcohol in public places.
- Possession or use of illicit drugs or alcohol by students will not be tolerated at school or on the way to or from school or at organised school events.
- A clear protocol will be developed for addressing the issue of a student, staff member or community member attending school or a school function clearly under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or students consuming alcohol or taking illicit drugs at school, or on the way to or from school or during school events.
- The consumption of alcohol by staff members on camps or excursions is most unwise, is strongly discouraged and may compromise a staff members professional standing, their ability to carry out their duty of care, and/or loss of WorkCover rights. Students consuming alcohol on a school camp or excursion will be immediately returned to school and their parents (and police if under aged) will be contacted.
- Students are not permitted to bring alcohol or illicit drugs on to school grounds under any circumstances, and a suspension from school will be a likely minimum outcome.

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed by School Council as part of the school's three-year cycle with student, parent and community input being considered.

RATIFIED BY COLLEGE COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 03/5/2016  
College Council President

Review Date: May 2019