



# MANAGING DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

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## **RATIONALE:**

- 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 skills and appropriate coping strategies. Drug education will be based on a harm minimisation approach.

## **AIMS:**

- 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.
- Resilience education forms a strong basis for drug education at our school.

## **IMPLEMENTATION:**

### **Preventative approach**

Students will develop age appropriate knowledge as outlined in the Victorian curriculum.

### **Immediate action**

The school's first responsibility when dealing with drug-related incidents is to ensure the safety of the student(s). As a general rule, the teacher(s) on the spot should aim to:

- Isolate the student(s)
- Confiscate the drug(s)
- Seek medical assistance as appropriate, for example, call an ambulance, provide first aid and contact the family
- Inform the principal

### **Lines of responsibility**

Drug-related incidents are to be handled in descending order of responsibility by:

- The principal
- The assistant principal
- Leading teacher/s
- The teacher on the spot

Teachers faced with an incident must immediately enlist the assistance of one or more of the above.

Parents must be notified as soon as practicable. It will be necessary for parents to come immediately to collect student(s).

### **Intermediate action**

The teacher /senior staff as soon as practicable try to ascertain the facts. This will include:

- Which students have been involved
- The type of drug(s) used
- How much of the drug was used
- Where the drug was obtained
- The teacher(s) must again emphasise that the purpose of all questioning is to ensure the students safety and wellbeing.

### **Stay calm**

- Adopt a sensible, reasonable approach
- Express only concerns which you can substantiate
- Spend time listening and thinking
- Avoid being judgemental
- Recognise that a crisis can be productive

If an on-balance decision is made that a bag or locker search is necessary, then the principal or her/his delegate should be present and the student made aware of what is being required i.e. bag emptied. On refusal, the bag is to be taken to the office and wait until parents arrive.

**Follow-up**

In line with the *DET 'School Policy & Advisory Guide'*

- Parental involvement is essential throughout the process
- Police will be involved when it appears that a crime has been committed. The principal will notify Emergency Management, Region and the police.
- Principal/Assistant Principal or Student Welfare Co-ordinator will organise counselling support for the student.
- The student will be referred to a guidance officer, as appropriate.
- Consultation with students and families may result in referral to community and medical agencies that deal with drug-related issues.
- The Principal/Assistant Principal/staff involved will be responsible for writing a report about the drug-related incident.
- Staff and other students involved may need to be debriefed by the Principal/Assistant Principal and/or guidance officer, as appropriate. The Principal, in consultation with staff and region will determine whether a debrief session is necessary.
- Any media contact will be handled by the Principal with support, where appropriate, from the Regional Office, and the DET Legal and Media Units.
- Normal discipline procedures will be followed. It may be deemed appropriate to consider advice from those involved in counselling the student.
- The Principal, Assistant Principal or guidance officer will monitor the student's program and review support strategies.

**EVALUATION:**

This policy will be reviewed and evaluated in context of the school's ongoing three year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in November 2016

Name of School Council President: Nicholas Bliss

Signature of School Council President.....