

Medication and Illegal Substances Policy

Introduction

This drug policy has been established in an attempt 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 and/or psychologically. This definition includes all drugs e.g. analgesics, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, amphetamines, prescribed medication.

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

Prevention

Our school's Health Education Program follows the curriculum framework. Social issues such as drug and alcohol use and abuse are dealt with, incorporating a combination of factual information, attitude and values clarification, and decision making skills. Health education can also be accessed via the school's health services.

Intervention

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

Our school does not permit students, while on school premises or at a school function to:

- smoke tobacco products;
- consume alcoholic beverages;
- deliberately inhale solvents;
- possess drug-related equipment such as bongs, pipes (misuse of Drugs Act 1981), syringes, (except in cases of lawful medical use and written agreement with the school).
- possess or use prohibited drugs in accordance with the 1981 Act.

Student Medication

- The school must be informed by parents if student performance or behaviour is likely to be affected by any medication which is being self-administered.

If a student is required to carry and self-administer prescribed medicine while at school, parents must advise the School Nurse.

Prohibited Substances

Smoking

- Education Department Policy prohibits smoking in school buildings or on school grounds.
- School is declared a Smoke Free Zone. This will be promoted through student notices, newsletters and posters around the school grounds.

Other Drugs

- Students are not permitted to use or carry other drugs at school.
- Drugs or drug related equipment will be confiscated.
- School discipline including detention, loss of privileges and suspension by the appropriate sub school Manager will result if students are in possession of, or under the influence of drugs.
- Police will be notified where appropriate.
- Relevant staff will be informed of instances of drug use and the welfare of all staff and students will be a priority in all cases. Staff are required to maintain strict confidentiality.
- Where appropriate, students may be referred to relevant counselling agencies after discussion between student services personnel, the sub school Manager, the student and parent.

Please be aware that any member of school staff (except for the School Nurse) is unable to administer any medication your child, unless the relevant paperwork has been completed and the information stored in the school computer system. This also includes Panadol.

Teaching of Health Education promotes opposition to drug abuse and a harm reduction approach as recommended by DoE. The school Health curriculum and the school nurse promotes and encourages alternatives to drug use.