



# STUDENT WELFARE

## Drug Related-Policy

### AIMS:

- To support the implementation of drug education to enable students to acquire the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about drug use.
- To promote an agreed harm minimisation approach throughout the school.

### DRUG RELATED ASPECTS:

- The Drug Related Student Welfare goals will address the wellbeing of students, ranging from prevention to intervention.
- The strategic Drug Education Plan and the 'Principles for School Drug Education, (2004, 2005) provides a framework for the co-ordination of resources and expertise in school drug education.
- The strategic plan promotes a harm minimisation approach to drug education and recommends the co-ordination of the production and the dissemination of appropriate resources reflecting the principles of harm minimisation.
- Drug Education will be taught in the context of the school health curriculum. Drug education will occur when children learn about drugs and drug use in a formal program. Drug related topics will be covered in the school's scope and sequence.
- **Harm minimisation** takes into account the relationship between people, the drugs they use and the environments in which they use them. A harm minimisation approach starts from a realistic assessment of specific types of harms associated with specific population groups and specific social and cultural contexts, and supports targeted strategies designed to have maximum impact on reducing those harms. Outcomes will include abstinence or prevention of drug use, reduced or controlled use, safer administration or reduction of the harmful consequences of drug use for the community.
- Through a variety of teaching strategies and approaches students should acquire knowledge and skills to assist them to make informed decisions about their drug use, and so to minimise any harmful effects associated with it.

### GUIDELINES:

1. Preventive programs with a health focus will be implemented.
2. Any students with drug-related problems will be identified and supported.
3. Staff will respond to issues arising from drug-related critical incidents.
4. The Health curriculum will provide meaningful, accurate and up to date information on drugs and related issues.
5. The drug education aspect is based on the harm minimisation approach.
6. Children with special health care needs or at risk will be identified and individual strategies for ongoing management or emergencies set in place.
7. Teachers will provide a supportive environment for students through Welfare and Behaviour Management policies.

8. The Welfare Co-ordinator will act as the liaison person with relevant personnel for extra guidance and assistance.
9. In the event of a serious drug-related incident, the teacher in charge will:
  - Establish the related facts
  - Summon First Aid where appropriate
  - Take any actions necessary to ensure the safety of the person involved and others.
10. Teachers will inform and consult with the Welfare Officer, school administration in deciding further action when dealing with the incident.
11. Discarded needles / syringes will be disposed of by adults only. Pick up the syringe by the barrel. Put needle/syringe in a screw top, puncture-proof container and seal. Contact Council for instructions on disposal.
12. In the event of a needle stick injury, encourage wound to bleed by gently squeezing, wash area with warm, soapy water, apply antiseptic and cover, seek further medical advice. Wear disposable gloves during this process.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

**October 2008**