

Drug and Alcohol Policy

1. PURPOSE

- a. Effective Drug and Alcohol education is important because young people are faced with many influences to use both licit and illicit drugs. Education can play a counter balancing role in shaping a normative culture of safety, moderation and informed decision-making.
- b. Drug and Alcohol education is a joint responsibility between school, home and the broader community. It will be provided at all levels of schooling based on prevention, early intervention and a harm minimisation approach, including specific Drug and Alcohol education curriculum, as well as resilience education, problem solving skills and appropriate coping strategies.
- c. Illicit drug usage in schools can be a social, health or legal problem that requires addressing in accordance with protocols established between the Department of Education and Training (DET) and Victorian Police Force.

2. AIMS

3. a. To provide a whole school approach to Drug and Alcohol education at Hamlyn Views School that will help prevent;
 - Harmful drug use
 - Illicit drug use
 - Inappropriate alcohol consumption and licit drug use
 - Solvent use
4. c. To provide accurate information regarding the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body to assist students to make healthy and safe choices, identify risky situations, and develop strategies to prepare them for challenging situations.
5. To provide all students with a comprehensive, age appropriate Drug and Alcohol education curriculum for a minimum of ten hours per year.
6. To ensure that resilience education, forms a strong basis for Drug and Alcohol education.
7. To provide a safe and healthy school environment free of illicit drugs or substance abuse.
8. To have clearly defined processes when alcohol has been brought on to the school property or a student or staff member has attended school clearly under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

Drug and Alcohol Education

- a. Drug and Alcohol education will use a prevention, early intervention and harm minimisation approach.
- b. Drug and Alcohol education will include an emphasis on;
 - Developing students' life skills and protective behaviours
 - Promoting the range of relationships in which students can engage
 - Ensuring that students are connected to their schooling

- External influences such as, media, family, peers and community.
- c. To provide all students with a comprehensive, age appropriate Drug and Alcohol curriculum consistent with the national *Principles for School Drug Education* for 10 hours minimum per year.
- d. A Drug and Alcohol curriculum will be developed and delivered at each year level as part of the school's Social and Emotional Learning [SEL] Plan. Materials such as Get Real, Get Wise, Safe Partying and Re-Thinking Drinking will be utilised.
- e. Opportunities for Professional Development will be provided for staff to ensure they feel confident in delivering Drug and Alcohol education.
- f. Where appropriate, Community Health Services, Drug and Alcohol counsellors, and local police, will be used as resources.

Illicit and licit Drug Use

- g. Reasonable measures will be taken to protect students in our care from risks of injury, including risks associated with drug or substance usage.
- h. It is unacceptable that any student or staff member use, possess, supply or be under the influence of illicit drugs or substances, at school, at a school function or in the vicinity of the school or its students.
- i. It is incumbent upon a school to act whenever cases of inappropriate drug use, illegal or criminal activity occur, or are suspected to have occurred at school. Such action must involve staff members informing the Principal who will contact the police as per the 'Protocol between the Victorian Police and DET Concerning Criminal Offences', contacting parents and arranging counselling or support as necessary.
- j. Whether or not the Principal informs all parents or students of incidents involving drugs at school is a matter of circumstances and degree, but the Principal's legal duty is to ensure that the school environment is, as far as practicable, safe and free from risks.
- k. The Principal will consult with School Council in matters involving drug use.
- l. Students suspected of carrying illicit drugs in school bags or personal clothing are to be separated from other students and supervised while the police are contacted. A teacher or principal can conduct an immediate search of a school bag or clothing in the company of another responsible adult if there is imminent danger that the student is likely to use an illicit drug without warning while the police are contacted.
- m. School Council approval, and a liquor license as appropriate, must be obtained for the consumption of alcohol at school or at school functions. Schools Councils must comply with the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998.
- n. Students consuming alcohol on a school camp or excursion will be immediately returned to school, their parents (and police if under aged) contacted, and sanctions imposed as determined by the principal
- o. The consumption of alcohol by staff members on excursions or camps is not permitted and may compromise a staff members professional standing and their ability to carry out their "duty of care", and/or loss of WorkCover rights
- p. A staff member must not have drugs or alcohol present in his or her blood or breath immediately before or while transporting any students in any vehicle.
- q. At the discretion of the principal, staff members may be required to be tested if under suspicion of having consumed alcohol or taken drugs. All measures will be taken to ensure that testing is as confidential as practical.
- r. The school will follow the 'Drug Related Incident Plan' (Appendix A) as required.

4. REFERENCES

- s. DET Drug Prevention Policy:
 - t. <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/drugprevention.aspx>
 - a. DET Alcohol Policy:
 - u. <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/alcohol.aspx>
 - b. DET Drug Use Policy:
 - <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/druguse.aspx>
 - c. Vic. Curriculum <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/pages/foundation10/f10index.aspx>
 - d. DET Drug Education Policy and Resources
 - <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/drugeducation2.aspx>
 - e. DET (Australia) Principles for School Drug Education <http://apo.org.au/node/33720>
 - f. DET Drugs and Schools: Legal Issues A Guide for Principals
 - <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/health/drugslegal.pdf>

5. EVALUATION

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four yearly review cycle.

**This policy was reviewed in consultation with School Council in February, 2019
Date for next review 2023**

