

All Saints Catholic Primary School

Drug Policy and

Procedures



Developed by: Staff and School Board

Notes:

1. All references to 'Staff members' include Leadership, Administration Staff, Educational Support Officers, Teachers and Temporary Relieving Teachers.
2. All references to 'Parents and Carers' include Grandparents, Relatives, Friends and Volunteers.

Rationale:

This policy emerges from the Pastoral Care needs for the children at All Saints Catholic Primary School and is based on our belief in the dignity and worth of each individual that is embodied in the Gospel message. In this context this policy is based on a number of beliefs including that:

- the promotion of the physical, social, emotional, spiritual well-being of each child will help us to reduce substance misuse
- drug education is a shared responsibility between home, school and community
- many people use drugs or are affected by the drug use of others and that non-drug users also need to be supported
- a drug education program requires a range of approaches in both the curriculum and welfare areas. This helps to prevent and reduce drug-related harm and should include prevention and early intervention strategies as well as specialist support for those with drug-related problems.

Aims:

This policy aims to:

- provide strategies for the prevention, management and possible notification of the use of non-sanctioned drugs during school hours and at school sponsored event
- focus on the safety and welfare of children and staff
- support the development of a safe school environment for all members of the All Saints Catholic Primary School community promote the making of informed decisions about alcohol and other drugs in our lives and in our community
- set out clear management strategies and support services for all matters related to unauthorised drug use
- facilitate liaison between children, parents/carers, school staff and other interested parties on health promotion in our school community.

Background Information:

In this policy a drug is defined as any substance which changes the normal way in which the body or mind functions. The consumption of any drug has the potential to cause harm. Readily available drugs include:

- prescribed and non-prescribed drugs including vitamins
- caffeine in coffee, tea and cola
- tobacco and alcohol
- solvents, petrol and other chemical agents used as inhalants
- illegal drugs such as cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy and heroin.

The term 'unauthorised' is used to describe the use or abuse of these products and substances in the school context.

In common with most organisations now working in the field of drug policy and drug education, we accept a harm minimisation approach to drug education as the best one. This policy is consistent with the Commonwealth Government's guidelines: National School Drug Education Strategy – Tough on Drugs. It is a realistic approach to the whole question of drug education and drug related welfare that includes prevention of drug taking where possible, early intervention and control of supply of drugs, teaching about safe drug use and offering specialist treatment.

Unauthorised Drug Use:

All Saints Catholic Primary School does not allow children to:

- smoke tobacco or other drugs
- drink alcoholic beverages
- use drugs of dependence or any other legally prohibited substances
- use prescribed drugs unless a parent or guardian of the student has negotiated this with the school
- share any prescribed or unprescribed drug with any other child
- use solvents or other chemical agents for inappropriate purposes
- possess drug-related objects such as syringes, pipes, bongs, etc
- attend school or school activities whilst affected by drugs and/or alcohol.

The school prohibits the possession, sale, supply, exchange or negotiation of the above on school premises, in school uniform, while representing the school, or on any occasion when staff have the responsibility for an individual or a group of children.

Prevention and Intervention:

School based drug education is one of the important strategies used in preparing children to understand the possible effects of the inappropriate use of alcohol and other drugs. At All Saints Catholic Primary School, a variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used to:

- increase children's knowledge of relevant and accurate facts about drugs and alcohol
- develop personal, social and cognitive skills that begin to equip children with drug related issues in a variety of contexts
- increase children's understanding of the range of risks associated with drug use
- establish educational opportunities for parents/carers and other members of the school community in the area of drug education.

Management of Drug Use

Authorised Drug Use – Refer to the All Saints Catholic Primary School First Aid & Medication Policies and Procedures

Unauthorised Drug Use

It is possible that at some time, drug related incidents will occur on school premises or involve members of the school community, and require a response from the school. If any of these situations is suspected some or all of the following actions will occur:

- the immediate health status of the child(ren) will be evaluated and medical assistance sought if required
- the substance or implements will be confiscated and secured by the Principal
Please note: risks associated with confiscating illicit substances found in the possession of persons in the school - the staff member retaining the confiscated illicit substances could be charged personally with possession of illicit substances therefore it is important the Principal reports the incident to the police liaison officer/police to enable a drug intervention strategy to take place which includes appropriate counselling for the child.
- a preliminary investigation will be undertaken to establish the facts
- the parents/carers of the child(ren)concerned will be contacted
- if an illegal substance is involved the police will be contacted and the child(ren) will be formally interviewed. Where illicit drugs are involved all proceedings will be handled by police and parents and carers can decide if legal representation is required
- parents/carers of the child(ren) will be involved in the resolution of the incident
- Refer to Appendix 1 for Assessment and Action Purposes.

The consequences for the child(ren) could include one or more of the following:

- the drawing up of a contract between the child(ren), the parents/carers and the school
- the internal suspension of the child(ren)
- the external suspension of the child(ren)
- the expulsion of the child(ren).

Support Documents:

- National Drug Strategy
- Resilience Education Drug Information (Aust Govt)
- Crossways RE Framework
- All Saints Catholic Primary School First Aid & Medication Policies and Procedures
- SACCS Policies / Procedures

Financial Budget: *Nil*

Resources:

Quit SA 8291 4141
Kids Help Line 1800 551 800
Family Drug Support 1300 368 186

Signed _____ Date _____ 28 June 2017

Principal (on behalf of School Board) Date to be reviewed _____ June 2020

APPENDIX 1

Assessment/Action Process

Issue/incident	Action	Consequence	Ongoing Support
Use/possession/distribution of illegal substances or identified substances	School will contact the police liaison officer /police to investigate. Parents/carers contacted	School to make decision about consequences including education, restorative and deterrent	School to organise counselling and implement where appropriate
Use/possession/distribution of legal substances but illegal behaviour	May need to contact police for support. Parents/carers contacted	Possible exclusion from school	Re-entry plan for suspended child(ren)
Use/possession/distribution of legal substances but unsanctioned behaviour	Leadership to use professional judgement, parents/carers contacted. Consider need for mandatory notification	As above	As above
No substance and no admission but unusual behaviour to suggest drug use	Treat child(ren) as unwell, contact parents/carers to discuss child(ren)'s health and behaviour. Consider mandatory notification	Negotiated	Counselling provided