



# ALCOHOL

## POLICY

### **Rationale:**

Early exposure to alcohol using behaviours through family members, community, social events and media can influence attitudes and expectations about alcohol use long before children ever consider using alcohol themselves. Alcohol, although legal, is considered one of the most harmful drugs affecting young people today. Our school has a community responsibility to educate our students about the effects of alcohol within the context of our school's drug education program, to model responsible drinking behaviours and provide children with examples of alcohol-free social events and celebrations of achievement.

### **Principles underpinning this policy**

All actions prescribed in the policy should

1. Be based on the best available evidence
2. Create enabling environments for safe decision making in relation to alcohol
3. Follow a harm minimisation approach
4. Be integrated with the school curriculum and relevant school policy
5. Comply with relevant liquor control laws.

### **Aims:**

- To provide a school environment that enables safe and responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol consumption
- To ensure students have the necessary knowledge and skills to make positive informed choices about their health, wellbeing, and future use of alcohol.
- To provide alcohol education through an integrated curriculum

### **Implementation:**

- To provide students with accurate information regarding the effects of alcohol on the body.
- To clearly define the processes required when alcohol has been brought on to the school property or a student or staff member has attended school clearly under the influence of alcohol.
- Integrated age-appropriate alcohol education activities will be provided as part of our school's drug education program.
- Where possible harm-reduction-oriented liquor control strategies (price, product type and placement of alcohol) will be maintained at school events to ensure the impact of alcohol consumption is minimised.
- Where appropriate, our school will access agencies within our local community with expertise in the field of alcohol education to design alcohol education strategies
- Any lessons taught regarding alcohol will be delivered within the context of a Harm Minimisation approach to drug education.
- School Council approval is required before alcohol can be consumed on school premises and protocols will be established for events where alcohol is available to ensure that appropriate and timely disposal of empty bottles/cans/glasses occurs. The School must comply with the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998.

- Consumption of alcohol at school events held off premises is subject to the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 and other laws associated with provision of alcohol in public places.
- The consumption of alcohol by staff members, students or parents on camps or excursions is prohibited.
- Any alcohol that is held on the school premise will be stored in a secure location away from students.
- Communication of the alcohol policy will be made via the newsletter and website each year.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed at the first meeting of School Council, biennially.

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

**February 2015**

**References:** <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/default.htm>

Australian Drug Foundation – [www.druginfo.adf.org.au](http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au)

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/drugedulearn.aspx#H2N1028B>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/drugeducation.aspx>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/pages/drugeduengage.aspx>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/druguse.aspx>

# Responding to drug related incidents

This table identifies immediate and subsequent responses to drug related incidents when student/s are suspected of possessing, distributing or using a drug, including being drug affected.

Timing	Response
<b>Immediate response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• focus on the safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved</li><li>• stay calm</li><li>• gather any:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ facts</li><li>○ relevant information</li></ul></li><li>• make a first aid assessment (if necessary seek medical support)</li><li>• seek assistance as soon as possible</li><li>• safely collect any suspected drugs and drug paraphernalia</li><li>• inform the school administration</li><li>• Isolate the situation from other students, if possible.</li></ul>
<b>Subsequent response when it is safe</b>	<p>Follow up to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• inform parents/guardians of students involved in incident</li><li>• notify health, community and welfare services, if appropriate</li><li>• contact the police, if required</li><li>• establish a case management team to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ gather and verify information</li><li>○ allocate tasks and roles</li><li>○ document information</li><li>○ develop a communication strategy</li><li>○ consider interventions</li><li>○ consider sanctions in line with student engagement policies</li><li>○ monitor, evaluate and reflect.</li></ul></li></ul>