



DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROCEDURES

Updated 19/05/2020

Drug and Alcohol Policy

The purpose of this document is to ensure clear processes concerning students suspected of, being under the influence of, or in possession of illicit substances and/or alcohol

Responding to Incidents of Drug Use

These procedures, while conforming to legal requirements, are designed to address incidents of drug and alcohol use in a way which is in the best interests of all the parties concerned. With the Principal's authorisation they may be varied to meet the needs of a particular situation.

Student possession or use of alcohol and other drugs, at school, or off-site school activities is:

- a) not acceptable under any circumstances
- b) a serious breach of school discipline.

Rules and Legalities

In addition to the laws that govern drug use in the wider community, the Department of Education policy is that students may not:

- consume, possess, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages
- consume, possess, or be under the influence of an illicit substance
- smoke tobacco products
- bring to school or to have on them more than the prescribed limit of legal medication required for their personal use.

These regulations place the same restrictions on teaching staff, ancillary staff, parents, and visitors when students are present:

- on school premises
- at school functions.

SMOKING IS PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES.

Immediate Response

If a staff member becomes aware of student's possession and/or use of alcohol and other illicit substances, they must:

- a. focus on the safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved
- b. stay calm
- c. gather any: facts/relevant information
- d. make a first aid assessment (if necessary seek medical support)
- e. seek assistance as soon as possible
- f. safely collect any suspected drugs and drug paraphernalia
- g. inform the school administration
- h. isolate the situation from other students, if possible.

Subsequent response when it is safe

- a. inform parents/guardians of students involved in incident
- b. notify health, community and welfare services, if appropriate
- c. contact the police, if required
- d. establish a case management team to:
 - gather and verify information
 - allocate tasks and roles
 - document information
 - develop a communication strategy
 - consider interventions
 - consider sanctions in line with student engagement policies
 - monitor, evaluate and reflect.

Approaching an intoxicated student

Consider if the student has a disability, illness or injury which may be mistaken for intoxication.

If you form a reasonable belief that a student is intoxicated:

- a) remain calm, friendly and non-judgmental
- b) tell the student you have concerns for their safety
- c) keep your distance and stand to the side of the student
- d) tell the student what you will do before approaching them
- e) talk to the student away from other students to avoid embarrassing them
- f) call WA Police (131 444) if necessary.

Staff should not:

- a) confront or argue with the student
- b) allow the student to leave the school alone
- c) leave the student by themselves.

Organise care for the student

When parents of the student are contacted this is to be by either administration or teaching staff. **It is not the role of the AIEO or EA to advise student's parents** of any issues around this matter.

Teachers and/or administration are to:

- a) tell parents about the situation
- b) arrange for the student to be collected
- c) encourage parents to seek medical assistance.
- d) organise care for the student at the school until they are released into the care of their parent or authorised adult.

An ambulance will be called if the:

- a) parents decline or are unable to promptly collect the student
- b) student is in immediate risk of harm.

The Department of Education has guidelines relating to medicinal drugs. Parents need to provide written details of a student's medication and students may only carry sufficient personal medication for one school day.

The school nurse is the only staff member permitted to administer analgesics such as Panadol. For further detail, please contact the school nurse.

Where selling and/or supply of drugs is suspected, the police will automatically be involved. Where possible, parents will be contacted to be present during questioning and searching of students, but where this is not possible, a staff member of the same gender will be present at all times. If selling or supplying has been established a suspension period of up to ten days will be imposed. Subsequent incidents of selling and/or supplying drugs may result in exclusion proceedings being initiated by the school.