

# Drug Policy

## Authority

This policy is consistent with *DECS Intervention matters: A policy statement and procedural framework for the management of suspected drug-related incidents in schools*. This policy was developed by our Drug Strategy Core Team in consultation with students, staff, parents and community partners, and endorsed by the SRC, staff and Governing Council on the dates at the end of this document. To ensure continuous improvement, school procedures will be reviewed after every drug-related incident, whilst the policy will be reviewed every two years.

## Overarching policy statement

Our school has a focus on health and well-being and is committed to maintaining a safe, secure and supportive environment for its community. This policy is part of our Whole School Drug Strategy that includes a range of curriculum; policies and procedures; and positive school environment initiatives. Our school takes action to prevent drug use by students and to intervene if it occurs by taking a whole of school approach. The use, possession and/or distribution of illicit drugs and the unsanctioned use and distribution of drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs, are not accepted.

## Links to other school initiatives

This policy also relates to our school's medication management, OHS&W and curriculum policies, and our school's behaviour code.

- Drug education is taught as part of a sequential and developmentally appropriate curriculum.
- Partnerships are made with parents and community agencies to assist our school to address drug issues.
- Student resiliency and wellbeing are promoted through "Kids Matter" Initiative

## Principles and rationale

The principles of natural justice and procedural fairness will apply in the management of suspected drug-related incidents, as outlined in Appendix D of *Intervention matters*. Our school will implement these in the following way: By explaining to the student,

- What is alleged to have occurred and that it is of concern because of the effects on health and safety of them and others.
- The procedure from that time; when and where a meeting will take place with staff, child and advocate.
- Their right to be heard and to ask questions at the meeting.
- Their right (or their advocate's right) to appeal the process or consequence.

If suspected drug-related incidents occur and drug issues arise, they will be managed and responded to in ways that:

- Minimise the harm to all members of the school community
- Ensure the wellbeing, educational careers and ongoing support for the students involved
- Are both firm and fair.

## Procedures for both school and extra curricular activities

### Overview

Involvement with drugs, including illicit and unsanctioned drugs, means that school personnel have reason to believe that:

- Drugs have been or are being used
- Students are in possession of drugs or instruments used with drugs
- Students are present when drugs are being used by others

In the event of a suspected drug-related incident:

- The safety and wellbeing of students will be considered paramount: they may need to be treated as unwell in accordance with the school's health plan and/or emergency procedures.
- Parents will be contacted in instances of possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or the use and/or illegal distribution of unsanctioned drugs.
- Police and the District Director will be informed in instances of possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and/or the illegal distribution of unsanctioned drugs.
  - **Robe Police Station 87 682118**
  - **SAPol 131 444**

- **Limestone Coast District Education Office 87245300**

- Consequences may vary and will depend on the nature of the situation, its potential for harm and the circumstances of the individual students involved. However, they could involve suspension or exclusion. In such instances the DECS procedures will be followed.

Follow-up support for student wellbeing will be implemented.

**School procedures**

**Initial procedures**

- Calmly but firmly intervene ensuring the safety and health of student/s and particularly utilizing OHS&W principles in caring for yourself.
- If intervening teacher is not a teacher, a teacher should be called to the scene.
- Inform student/s of suspicion and seek their cooperation
- Make a first aid assessment (and if necessary seek medical support)
- Note incident details – who, what, when and where
- Safely, collect any suspected drugs and drug paraphernalia.
- Escort student/s to principal and hand over details of incident.

**Initial interview**

- Continue to monitor student health and safety.
- Secure evidence
- Make initial assessment of seriousness of incident
- Inform student/s of the form of proceedings and their rights.
- Determine and contact participants as appropriate – student/s, parents/caregivers, procedural observer, police, district co-ordinator.
- Ensure all participants understand proceedings and roles.
- Interview student/s to collect and document facts about the incident.
- Determine next level of involvement.

**Assessment**

**Principal Assessment**

**Action**

Use/possession/distribution of illegal substance or unidentified substance	Suspend interview and contact police to investigate/identify
Use/possession/distribution of legal substance but illegal behaviour	May need to contact police for clarification or notification
Use/possession/distribution of legal substance but unsanctioned behaviour	Use professional judgement to determine if need to inform police
No substance, no confession of drug use but unusual behaviour suggests drug use	Treat student as being unwell according to the Health Support guidelines. Contact parents/caregivers to collect unwell student.

Make decisions about consequences, including educative, punitive and deterrent.

**Following actions**

Could include ALL or some COMBINATIONS of the following

For the student/s

- Ongoing educational support
- Counselling
- Re-entry planning if student has been suspended

For the staff

- Debrief staff
- Support as required
- Review school procedures