



Drugs & Substances

Introduction

This policy sets out the school's response to the misuse of drugs & substances that are not prescribed by a medical practitioner and/or used in the manner and quantity in which they were prescribed. The emphasis being on prevention through drug education and a safe and supportive school environment, and intervention and support for students who may be involved.

1. Objectives - Policy Statement

1.1

This policy covers the possession and use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and the misuse of over-the-counter and prescribed medications, including the supply of restricted substances, on school premises by students, or on school excursions and camps. It also covers the possession and use of alcohol and tobacco on school premises by employees and visitors.

1.2

The Joseph Varga School employees are also bound by requirements in the '*Code of Conduct*' (relating to drugs, alcohol and tobacco).

1.3

Illegal drugs

1.3.1

The Joseph Varga School is an establishment that prohibits, and is to remain free of, illegal drugs.

1.3.2

The Principal must manage disciplinary matters involving suspected illegal substances or supply of restricted substances consistent with this policy and other related policies and procedures (e.g. relating to 'Medication', 'Discipline' and 'Child Protection').

1.3.3

The Principal must report incidents involving illegal drugs to the police and if applicable, Department of Community Services (DOCS).

1.4

Alcohol

1.4.1

Alcohol must not be consumed or brought to school premises during school hours. This includes employees, students and visitors and other people who use school premises.

1.4.2

The consumption of alcohol is not permitted at any school function (including those conducted outside school premises) at any time when school students, from any school, are present. A school function is any function organized by the school and/or in the name of the school and applies to all types of functions including dances, farewells, sporting fixtures and barbecues.

1.4.3

The Principal must manage incidents involving alcohol consistent with the school's student welfare and discipline policies.

1.5

Tobacco

1.5.1

Smoking on school premises, including school buildings, gardens, sports fields and car parks, is prohibited. This includes students, employees, visitors and other people who use school premises, including community groups.

1.5.2

The Principal must manage incidents involving tobacco consistent with the school's student welfare and discipline policies.

1.6

Misuse of over-the-counter and prescribed medications, including the supply of restricted substances

1.6.1

In cases where a student is supplying a restricted substance, the principal must manage the situation consistent with the school's student welfare and discipline policies.

1.6.2

In all other cases of misuse of prescribed medications or over-the-counter medications, the principal must manage the matter as a student welfare and health issue.

1.7

Misuse of inhalants/solvents

1.7.1

Where there are concerns that a student may be misusing inhalants/solvents at school, the principal must manage the matter as a student welfare and health issue.

1.7.2

School use of products containing solvents must be strictly supervised by school staff and limited wherever possible.

1.8

Drug testing students, including breath testing

1.8.1

Students must not be drug tested at school or during school activities such as excursions and sporting events. This includes breath testing.

2. Audience and applicability

2.1

Any person on the school premises or during school-endorsed activities off-site (8am-5pm), and for all staff and students at any time during school-endorsed activities, that may be on or off site.

2.2

This policy does not apply to lawful and responsible use of prescribed or other medication.

3. Context

3.1

The school's policy on the possession, use and supply of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and restricted substances is governed by the following legislation: *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985, Public Health Act 1991, Liquor Act 1982, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966, Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000, Lotteries and Art Unions Act 1901.*

3.2

This policy is to be implemented consistent with the Work, Health & Safety Policy obligations for ensuring a safe and healthy working and learning environment for staff, students and visitors.

3.3

The 'Discipline' policy and procedures provide a framework for managing drug related incidents in schools.

4. Responsibilities and delegations

4.1

The Principal

4.1.1

The Principal is responsible for implementing policy and procedures for managing drug related incidents in schools.

4.1.2

The Principal is responsible for ensuring the school rules and consequences about possession and use of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs at school by students are made known to students, staff and parents.

4.1.3

The Principal is responsible for ensuring the school's policy about tobacco and alcohol use on school premises by visitors and community groups is made known to the school community.

4.1.4

The Principal must monitor and review the implementation and effectiveness of responses to drug related incidents.

4.1.5

The Principal must ensure that all drug-related incidents are managed in conjunction and consistent with this policy including any disciplinary action with regards to managing drug-related incidents (see ***Discipline***).

4.2

Teachers

4.2.1

Teachers are expected to support the implementation of this Policy.

4.2.2

Teachers are expected to inform the principal when they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student is involved in drug related behaviours.

4.3

School Psychologist and WHS Committee

4.3.1

The School Psychologist and/or the WHS Committee is delegated the responsibility by the Principal to support the review of policies, procedures, and documentation with regards to the Drugs policy and suspected breaches of this code.

4.3.2

Recommendations are passed to the Principal by the School Psychologist and/or WHS Committee Chairman.

5. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements

5.1

In cases where a student has been suspended for an incident involving illegal drugs or supplying a restricted substance, the principal must report this in the suspension data to be returned as part of any attendance audit.

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