

BRINKWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL DRUG POLICY - DRAFT

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 20TH September 2005. To ensure continuous improvement, school procedures will be reviewed after every drug-related incident, whilst the policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Copies of this policy are to be kept in the Principal's Office and Front Office area, along with the relevant proformas.

Overarching policy statement

Our school 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.

Within our school this is further supported by

- Program Achieve
- Protective Behaviours
- Bi-annual Life Education Van sessions
- Health and Drug Education Curriculum
- Drug Strategy Action Plan
- Facilitating Student Voice, SRC and Student Forum
- Be Active Lets Go
- Chaplaincy Program

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:

- Brief explanation of what is alleged to have occurred and its relationship to their own health and safety and the health and safety of others.
- Inform the student of when and where a formal meeting will take place to discuss this (within 48 hours) and who will be present. (staff, child and advocate)
- Explain their right to put forward their point of view and ask questions at the meeting (these may be written or verbal).
- Explain their right or their advocates right to appeal regarding the process or the consequences of the behaviour.

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 School

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 well-being 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 all drug related incidents (instances of possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or the use and / or illegal distribution of illicit drugs and / or the illegal distribution of unsanctioned drugs)
- Brinkworth Police will be informed in all illicit drug related incidents (instances of possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and / or the illegal distribution of illicit drugs and / or the illegal distribution of unsanctioned drugs).
- The Wakefield District Director will be informed in instances of possession, use and distribution of illegal drugs.
- 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 some suspension or exclusion.

Follow up support for student well-being will be implemented.

School Procedures

Incident – Student (s) suspected of possessing, distributing or using a drug including being drug affected.

Initial procedures

Teacher / Principal:

Calmly but firmly intervene ensuring the safety and health of student (s) and particularly utilizing OHS&W principles in caring for yourself.

If intervening staff member 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.

Safety, collect any suspected drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Escort student (s) to Principal and hand over with 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), parent/s/caregiver/s, procedural observer/s, police, District Director or representative.

Ensure all participants understand proceedings and roles.

Interview student (s) to collect and document facts about the incident.

Determine next level of involvement.

Assessment of the suspected incident

- Use/possession/distribution of illegal substance or unidentified substance.

⇓

Suspend interview and contact Police to investigate / identify.

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- 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 the 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

For the student (s)

- Ongoing educational support
- Councelling
- Appropriate behaviour management consequences to be implemented.
- Re-entry planning if student has been suspended.
- Drug intervention process ⇒ police

For the Staff

- Debrief staff, analyse and implement up to date / relevant training and development as required.
- Support as required.
- Review School procedures.

Designated staff

Principal / Principal's delegate:

First aid support staff:

Other relevant staff: (eg: reporting teacher or class teacher)

This policy has been ratified by:

1. Principal:
2. Governing Council Chairperson:
3. Staff Delegate:
4. Student representative:

Date:

Cyclic Review Date: