

DRUG EDUCATION

POLICY



Rationale:

Drug Education is a joint responsibility between school, home and the broader community. Drug Education will be provided at all levels of schooling and will include specific drug education curriculum as well as resilience education, problem solving skills and appropriate coping strategies.

Drug education will be based on a harm minimisation approach.

Aims:

To focus on harm minimisation approach:

- increase student's knowledge, social and life skills, and refusal skills towards licit and illicit drug use
- include content relevant to young people's experiences and interests
- contain highly interactive approaches that engage students in problem solving and critical thinking
- commence activities prior to initial experimentation and continue as young people mature
- provide significant coverage of relevant issues complimented by follow up booster sessions
- position drug education within a broader health and personal learning curriculum that focuses, amongst other things, on mental health issues such as stress and coping
- respond to cultural and social needs of the school community
- engage parents where possible

Implementation:

- The school has developed supportive procedures for students and families with drug-related problems. Liaise with support services where necessary
- The strategy will include a specific drug education curriculum provided to each year level
- Appropriate resources will be used to enhance the curriculum e.g. Life Education, Rookies and other Australian/Victorian Government resources
- Drug Education will adopt a harm minimisation approach
- Drug Education will be inclusive of resilience education and will encompass problem-solving skills and appropriate coping strategies at all year levels.
- The school will develop a network base of community agencies that may assist in the implementation of drug education
- Professional development will be provided to ensure staff members feel confident in delivering drug education.

References: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/drugeducation>
www.druginfo.adf.org.au

Vic Govt Schools Reference Guide - <http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/curricman/support/3-17.pdf>

- Department of Education and Training, regional Drug Education consultants will be used as a resource

Drug Education includes an emphasis on:

- developing students' life skills and protective behaviours
- promoting the range of relationships in which students can engage
- ensuring that students are connected to their schooling
- external influences such as, media, family and peers.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed with student, parent and community input as part of the school's 4 year Individual School Drug Education Strategy (ISDES) review process

Support for the school

Each region provides professional learning activities to teachers in relation to learning and teaching, policy development, utilising resources and supporting student wellbeing in schools. Contact your Regional Senior Program Officer to assist you in developing your drug education plan.

Role of Central Office

The drug education team is situated within the Student Wellbeing and Health Support Division. The role of the central officers is to develop policy and resources and administer funding to schools.

This policy was ratified by School Council on 12th September 2017

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