School Drug Policy

Year Drafted: 2002
Revised: 2005
Revised: 2007
Revised: 2011
Revised: 2014
Year for Review: 2016

Vision Statement
Our Lady of the Cape Primary School is a community of faith where the gospel values of Christ are central to all school activities. The full potential of each child is developed in a collaborative learning environment that recognises the rights of self and others.

Rationale
For the purpose of this policy a drug is defined as any substance, which can, when taken into the body alter its normal function physically and or psychologically (World Health Organisation).
This school drug policy provides a framework to address alcohol, tobacco and other drug related problems in a caring and consistent manner within our school community.
This policy is an integral part of our commitment, as a caring and informed school community, to the continued health and well being of our students and will be reviewed regularly by a representative group of students, staff and parents. It was formed as a result of staff and parent discussion on the growing and changing needs of our local community.

Aims
- To involve staff, parents and the community in planning and implementing drug education.
- To provide students with the opportunity to practise the skills of self esteem, assertiveness and decision making within the ongoing education programme.
- To ensure that drug education and relevant topics are covered through health education curriculum in all year levels. This would include regular opportunities for updating parent information.
- To develop supportive procedures for students with drug related problems. These procedures will relate to our school Pastoral Care Policy.

Prevention
To prevent the use of unlawful and unsafe substances within the school community it is anticipated that our school will:
- Provide a well resourced, relevant Health Education Programme, which includes drug education for all year levels in accordance with the Curriculum Framework.
- Regularly provide professional development for staff teaching drug education and supply updated information to parents within the school community.
- Appoint a focus teacher/s within the school to assist staff when implementing drug education programmes.
- Regularly review the needs of our school with input from students, staff, parents bodies and the wider community and adjust our policy accordingly.
• Provide a drug education budget to achieve these aims (with the amount being reviewed each year).

**INTERVENTION**

These intervention procedures are designed to address alcohol, tobacco and other drug-related problems ensuring the health and well being of all parties concerned are represented. All intervention procedures must conform to legal requirements.

Any person entering the school premises or attending a school function is not permitted to:
1. possess, use, or supply to others any prohibited drugs;
2. possess and/or use pharmaceutical drugs for non-medical purposes;
3. smoke, possess or supply tobacco products to others;
4. consume or supply alcoholic beverages without the principal’s approval;
5. possess drug related equipment except in cases of lawful medical use;
6. deliberately inhale volatile substances.

**INTERVENTION AND PROCEDURES**

Intervention is designed to discourage and therefore educate the school community against the use of tobacco, alcohol and any substance (illegal or otherwise).

- At all times respect, courtesy and confidentiality will be given to all concerned parties.
- In the case of ‘at risk’ students, the principal will be notified and each case assessed upon its own diversities.
- Appropriate action plans will be determined by the nature of the misdemeanour.
- In all cases and with all substances the parents will be notified.
- All intervention procedures will conform to legal requirements.
- Safety and well being of all students will be given a priority.
- Disciplinary action will be undertaken which will involve the principal and the parents, in accordance with the school's Pastoral Care and Discipline Policy.

**Suggested actions include:**

**Smoking:** The Principal and/or Assistant Principal will notify parents/caregivers and a letter will then be sent home. Students will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action in accordance with the school discipline or pastoral care policy.

**Alcohol and Solvents:** Possession and or consumption of alcohol or deliberate inhalation of solvents will require the Principal to contact parents/caregivers and send a letter home. Students will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action in accordance with the school discipline and pastoral care policy.

**Illicit Drugs:** Parents/caregivers will be informed immediately. The Principal will determine if the police will be called. In the absence of a student’s parent or caregiver, a teacher nominated by the student will always be present at any police interview that takes place on school premises. The student will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action in accordance with the school discipline and pastoral care policy.
Procedures for the Disposal of Harmful Substances/Implements:

1. Upon finding any potentially harmful substances/implements students are to stand next to the substance and send another child to notify the teacher on duty.

   STUDENTS ARE NOT TO TOUCH OR TRY AND DISPOSE OF THE SUBSTANCE / IMPLEMENT THEMSELVES.

2. The duty teacher, whilst wearing protective gloves, should place the harmful substance/implement in a container and take it to the principal’s office.

3. All students and teachers will be aware of correct procedures for the disposal of syringes and implements found on the school premises.

In all circumstances the first response will be to establish and respond to the immediate health and welfare of the student and students around him/her.

Our Lady of the Cape Primary School is committed to the provision of a safe learning environment for all students. When concerns about drug use arise in the school community the school will cooperate with key agencies such as the police to determine what actions are appropriate to maintain a safe environment for all students.

Useful Contacts

Dunsborough Police 9781 3030
Alcohol and Drug Information Service 1800 198024
Kids Help Line 1800 551800
The Parent Drug Information Service 1800 653203
Busselton Hospital 9752 1122
School Drug Education Project www.sdep.wa.edu.au
Poisons Information Centre 131126