

ALCOHOL

POLICY

Rationale:

Alcohol, although legal, is considered one of the most harmful drugs affecting young people today. Our school has a community responsibility to fully inform our students, staff and whole school community about the effects of alcohol. Alcohol education will sit within the context of our school's drug education program.

Aims:

- To provide accurate information regarding the effects of alcohol on the body.
- To ensure students have the necessary knowledge and skills to make positive informed choices over their use of alcohol.
- To provide opportunities for the broader school community to participate in alcohol education activities.
- To clearly define the processes required when alcohol has been brought on to the school property or a student or staff member has attended school clearly under the influence of alcohol.

Implementation:

- Alcohol education activities will be provided, ensuring age appropriateness, as part of our school's drug education program.
- Curriculum materials such as Get Real, Get Wise, Safe Partying and Re-thinking Drinking will be used to form the basis of alcohol education at our school.
- Where appropriate, our school will access agencies within our local community with expertise in the field of alcohol education to participate in classes eg. local police, Community Health Service, Drug & Alcohol counsellors.
- Any lessons taught regarding alcohol will be delivered within the context of a Harm Minimisation approach to drug education.
- Alcohol education activities will be provided for parents and the broader school community.
- School Council approval is required before alcohol can be consumed on school premises. In doing so, Schools Councils must comply with the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998.
- Consumption of alcohol at school events held off premises is subject to laws associated with provision of alcohol in public places.
- A clear protocol will be developed for addressing the issue of a student, staff member or community member attending school or a school function clearly under the influence of alcohol, or students consuming alcohol at school or during school functions.
- The consumption of alcohol by staff members on camps or excursions is most unwise, is strongly discouraged and may compromise a staff members professional standing, their ability to carry out their duty of care, and/or loss of WorkCover rights. Students consuming alcohol on a school camp or excursion will be immediately returned to school, their parents (and police if under aged) will be contacted, and sanctions as determined by the principal will be applied.
- Students are not permitted to bring alcohol on to school grounds under any circumstances, and a suspension from school will be a likely minimum outcome.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

June 2012