



Drug Policy

Policy

Waikerie Lutheran Primary School adopts a firm line on the use, possession, or supply of legal and /or illicit drugs by students of the school, whether this occurs on the school property or at a school related function. The welfare of our students is of paramount importance.

Aims

The aim of this policy is to ensure that Waikerie Lutheran Primary School is a safe and supportive environment, free from drugs, for all members of the School community.

Definitions

For the purpose of this Policy, 'drugs' include: alcohol, tobacco, prescribed drugs and illegal non prescribed drugs such as marijuana, heroine, amphetamines and LSD style of hallucinogens and others. The School Policy applies to all students, whenever they are at the school, in school uniform, engaged in school activities or in association with any school functions.

Preventative and Proactive Strategies

- The school's Health Curriculum contains units on Drug and Alcohol education for all children in Years 4 – 7. The education programme, which addresses these issues, also contains units on peer pressure and self esteem. The school recognises that the students will be placed under peer pressure to experiment at some stage during their lives, but teaches the differences between responsible and irresponsible risk taking activities.
- Parents and students will be familiarised with the school policy on drug possession/use initially at enrolment and also as part of the Behaviour Management Statement.

Consequences of Drug Use

Students who do not wish to comply with the following expectations must understand that non-compliance will be treated as a very serious behaviour breach. Serious behaviour breaches may incur suspension and /or exclusion from the school. Each case is treated on an individual basis. Counselling and further education may be required. The school will endeavour to support students and families as they work through these issues and associated problems, whatever consequences may be deemed appropriate.

- Students are not permitted to smoke tobacco, consume or use alcohol or illegal, non-prescribed drugs while at school, in school uniform, engaged in school activities or in association with any school functions.
- The possession of any of these substances and/or associated equipment while at school, in school uniform, engaged in school activities or in association with any school functions is also an offence and appropriate disciplinary action will take place.
- Students who are aware of other students using and/or being in possession of such

substances and associated equipment while offending students are at school, in school uniform, engaged in school activities or in association with any school function and then choose to ignore their responsibility to report such matters, may be involved in disciplinary action.

Notification to School Authorities of Suspected or Proven Drug Use

The Principal must always be notified about suspected or proven drug use or possession by students on the school grounds, or at school related functions. On no account, should any teacher or student keep this knowledge secret even if this does result in serious consequences for the offender.

The school has a responsibility to parents for the safe welfare and protection of students. It would be negligent of the school to ignore such behaviour. The possession of illicit drugs and use of will result in immediate police notification and other relevant authorities.

Administration of Non-Prescribed Drugs to Students

The school discourages dispensing of paracetamol or other drugs for pain relief. If there is a medical condition for a student to take one of these pain relief substances then parents are requested to discuss this with the senior first aider (office staff) as a matter of urgency. When a child presents with continued pain, all non-medicinal procedures will be sought. If pain persists, then parents will be notified for further treatment. Students are also strongly discouraged from carrying these or any non-prescribed drugs on their person or storing them in their school bag or locker.

Management of Prescribed Drugs

Many students will at some time need to take medication during school hours for a variety of health reasons. The administration of medication in schools needs to be informed, monitored and documented. Regulations under the Controlled Substances Act 1987 requires that the administration of prescribed drugs be carried out in accordance with the instructions of the prescribing medical practitioner.

However, staff are neither required nor expected to give medication for which they do not have adequate information and/or the required professional qualifications or skills.

All staff will obtain and regularly update their Emergency First Aid qualification, which enables them to provide emergency care and medication to any person in crisis. The Senior First Aid Officer and other support staff will maintain a Senior First Aid Certificate and administer and record medication for students at school only if they are adequately informed and feel they are professionally qualified and skilled to do so.

Prescribed Medication

Where students need to take prescribed medication during school hours it is expected that:

- ❏ The parent discusses the situation with the Administration Staff.
- ❏ Where practicable, the medication is delivered personally to the responsible staff member, as a courtesy handover of responsibility from one carer to another. The medication is provided in the original container, labelled by the pharmacist, with the student's name, dosage and time of administration along with any doctor's directions.
- ❏ A medication administration register is kept to enter the date, time and dosage of the medication given, and that these details are entered by the staff member at the time of administration.
- ❏ Under no circumstances should teaching staff be involved in these procedures (unless on a camp or excursion).