



# SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY



## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

### **Vision**

Inspired by our Catholic Faith and tradition, we are committed to growing together in Faith, Peace and Wisdom.

### **Overarching policy statement**

St Francis School has a commitment to support students in order that they are safe and can achieve their full potential. Drug Education includes all the planned and interrelated policies, programs and practices that are designed to enhance students' health and provide them with the capabilities to make informed decisions to minimise drug-related harm for themselves and others.

### **Definition**

A drug is any substance which, when taken into the body alters its function physically and/or psychologically excluding food, water and oxygen. (WHO, 1992)

### **School Environment**

St Francis School accepts the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to drug education across the whole school community. This school acknowledges that is only one part of a community response to drug issues.

- Circle Time and Child Protection activities promotes student resilience and a sense of belonging
- Clearly identified roles are in place for all members of the school community
- School Counsellor employed one day a week to assist students experiencing difficulties in their life.
- School Chaplain employed to assist students on a day to day basis who are experiencing difficulties.
- Mentoring Program in place to support students with friendship issues.
- Positive relationships between students, staff, parents and the wider community are nurture.

### **Policies and Procedures**

- Medication management is attended to with care and professionalism. Records are kept of each action taken.
- Procedures for incident management are comprehensive and well practised.
- All guidelines are regularly reviewed.

### **Partnership**

- The school works in partnership with parents, students, community and state agencies and services
- Support for students and school communities are offered through the school counsellor, Leadership Team and Access.
- Links with agency partners, such as Centacare are valued.

## **Curriculum**

St Francis School situates the child at the centre of learning, to allow children to engage in learning that is appropriate for the individual student. To educate children in the safe use of drugs and to inform them of dangers of illicit drugs involves a multidisciplinary approach. We aim to build on existing knowledge and understandings, skills and strategies. Our program is preventative and aims at helping children to make positive healthy choices. We aim to reduce the harm that can come about through the misuse and abuse of drugs. Through our Social Education Programs including, Circle Time, Child Protection Programs and Values Education students gain resilience and confidence and can make good choices, affecting their lives.

## **Drug Use in the School**

St Francis School actively promotes healthy lifestyle choices. The possession, use, selling and distribution of substances such as tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, inappropriately used prescription drugs and all illicit drugs at school, constitutes a health and safety risk, breach of school rules and is against the law.

## **Response to Drug Related Incidents**

St Francis School's response to a drug related incident will be in line with National Protocols and the Catholic Education Office Guidelines and will take into account

- The nature of the incident.
- The circumstances of the students involved including relevant age, developmental, cultural, and social considerations.
- The safety and welfare of all members of the school community.

## **The following procedures will be addressed if a breach of this policy occurs.**

1. Investigation by a member of the School Leadership Team
2. Impact on the student assessed
3. Impact on other students assessed
4. Parents notified
5. Catholic Education Office Notified
6. Police Notified
7. Suspension/Expulsion or other consequence as deemed appropriate by the Principal will result.

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**Principal**

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**Chair of School Board**

**2018**