

# Drug Education Policy



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## Rationale:

### Defining drug education in schools

Effective drug education is important because young people are faced with many influences to use both licit and illicit drugs. Education can play a counterbalancing role in shaping a normative culture of safety, moderation, and informed decision making.

A harm minimisation approach aims to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences of drugs by minimising or limiting the harms and hazards of drug use for both the community and the individual without necessarily eliminating use.

Engaging students in drug education activities assists them to make healthy and safe choices, identify risky situations, and develop strategies to prepare them for challenging situations.

## Aims:

- 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 pedagogies 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

## Implementation:

- The model for drug education in Victoria is based on a whole school approach that utilises research and evidence based practice, effective pedagogy and encourages a positive school climate and strong partnerships
- Schools that are approaching drug education in a broadly defined curriculum appear to be making a greater impact on students. In these schools there is recognition that drug education is more than teaching essential information in a discrete subject such as Health.

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.
- Drug education will be developed as a component of the curriculum in order to contribute to the minimisation of harm associated with drug use by young people.

- The annual Life Education program will complement the P-6 curriculum.
- Staff and parents (as appropriate) will be educated on harm minimisation using the program provided through 'Drug Education'.

**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 July 2017