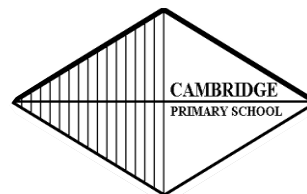


## Drug Education Policy



### Purpose

Cambridge Primary School's drug education will be embedded within a comprehensive whole school approach which will promote the overall health and wellbeing of all individuals. All students will be provided with a safe supportive environment which fosters engagement and connectedness in a way to seek to prevent or reduce drug related harm and enhance resilience. This policy is based on harm minimisation and includes curriculum, student wellbeing and incident management. Partnerships will be formed with the parents and local community health services and agencies to support this approach to drug education.

### Guidelines

This Policy is based on the *Framework for Student Support Services in Victorian Government Schools 1998*. The conceptual framework identifies four interrelated levels, encompassing primary prevention, early intervention, intervention and postvention. The school will primarily focus through this policy on the first two levels and the latter two will be addressed in the *Responding to a Drug-related Incident*.

Effective drug education involves a whole-school approach and a wide range of teaching and learning activities which aim to

- Develop resilience in students
- Promote the personal safety of students within their social environment
- Develop drug specific knowledge, skills and information within a safe and supportive environment
- Establish drug education outcomes which contribute to the overall goal of minimising drug-related harm and
- Document the school community's agreed position on, and accepted procedures for dealing with, drug-related incidents and problems.

### Implementation

- The school will use the *Framework for Student Support Services in Victorian Government Schools 1998* to develop whole school programs focusing on primary prevention and early intervention ie. Values Program, Peer Support, Life Ed Van.
- Health and drug education is taught as part of a comprehensive health education program throughout the school.
- We will attempt to promote a sense of belonging at school and ensure that students have a relationship with at least one competent, caring adult.
- The School will administer to the Yrs 5 & 6 students and staff the DEEM (Drug Education Evaluation and Monitoring) surveys
- A working party will complete the ISDES Action Plan and ensure all staff and the school community are familiar with it's content
- Ensure that the content of this drug education policy is contained in all relevant school publications, ie. student welfare bifold.
- Establish a working party to review the ISDES Action Plan and develop an annual implementation plan utilising the 12 national Principles for School Drug Education as articulated in the Department of Education, Science and Training publication *Principles for school drug education 2004*.

- Staff to follow the procedures outlined in *Responding to incidents of drug use* when addressing a drug related issue.

### **Evaluation**

- Completion of DEEM survey by staff and students of Year 5 & 6
- Staff Opinion Survey
- Parent Opinion Survey
- ISDES audit

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## **Risk Management – Responding to Incidents of Drug Related Use Policy (DRAFT)**

### **Purpose**

To respond to an incident of drug related use to ensure the student's immediate safety.

### **Guidelines**

**The procedure outlined below should be followed where possible and any variations should be discussed with the Principal or student services personnel.**

1. Establish and respond in a calm manner to the student's immediate safety. Apply, or organise to apply first aid if necessary (follow normal emergency school procedures for a medical emergency).
2. Accompany the student and take the substances involved immediately to the school administration block. If in class either send a responsible student with the yellow emergency card, or phone through to a Principal Class Officer requesting assistance.
3. The PCO will be responsible for the managing of the incident. It will be their responsibility to establish and validate the facts by interviewing relevant staff and students. Questioning should establish the substance and the person or persons involved, and where and when the incident occurred. When questioning, recognise cultural differences, because students from some cultures, ie Asian, Koorie do not respond to questioning in the way as Australian children do.
4. Then depending on the circumstances in assessing the situation the following action can take place. Keeping in mind that actions may vary considerably depending on the details of the incident, including the substance involved, the behavioural history of the identified student/s and the impact the incident has had on the other students:-
  - a) **Smoking** : Cambridge Primary School views tobacco smoking as a serious offence. Students who sell or supply tobacco products to other students are committing an offence. If students are found smoking at school parents/caregivers will be notified by a PCO and a formal letter sent home. Students will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action either in the form of a detention or suspension from school.
  - b) **Alcohol and solvents** : Possession and/or consumption of alcohol or deliberate inhalation of solvents will require the PCO to contact the parents/caregivers and send a formal letter home. Students will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action either in the form of a detention or suspension from school.
  - c) **Illicit drugs** : If possession or use of an illicit drug is suspected, the PCO will ask students to empty the contents of their school bags, pockets etc. If students refuse to do so, the police may be called. Searches may be undertaken only when a reasonable suspicion exists. It is recommended that, wherever possible, police officers conduct the search. If possession, use, sale or supply of a prohibited drug is confirmed, the parent/caregiver 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 staff member nominated by the student will always be present at any police interview that takes place on the school premises. The student will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action which may involve either suspension or expulsion. If an illicit drug is confiscated the Principal will call the police to arrange the disposal of the drug.

Further Action

- Completion of *WMR Staged Response Form*
- Inform DHS – 9275 7000 if necessary
- Inform Werribee Police – 9742 9444 if necessary
- Emergency & Security Management Unit 9589 6266
- Child Protection services
- Welfare organisations
- School Counsellor
- MHSky Mental Health services

Confidential written records will be maintained by the PCO about incidents of drug use and will be securely filed in the Student Welfare Officer’s office.

**Privacy** - Only staff members who need to know will be informed of any incidents of drug use and kept up-to-date with the case. However if suspension of a student/s results, all staff will be notified verbally by the Principal. **All staff should be reminded that they are required to maintain strict confidentiality.**

**Evaluation**

The effectiveness of this policy will be evident in .....

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**\* This policy will be reviewed in conjunction with the Drug Education Policy.**