

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

RATIONALE:

School drug education utilises a whole school approach to health promotion, prevention and early intervention to student wellbeing and engagement, based on the principles of harm minimisation. Drug education is a joint responsibility between school, home and the broader community. It will be provided at all levels of schooling and will include specific curriculum, as well as resilience education, problem solving skills and appropriate coping strategies.

AIMS:

- To focus drug education on a prevention model
- To provide all students with a comprehensive, age appropriate drug education curriculum
- To ensure that drug education is embedded across key curriculum learning areas
- To promote resilience, and build on knowledge, skills and behaviours to enable young people to make responsible, healthy and safe choices

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The school will follow the Department of Education regulations and procedures as listed in the Schools of the Future Guidelines 4.5 'Student Health' and 4.6 'Student Care and Supervision.'
- The school will develop and oversee the implementation of a cross curricula drug education strategy
- The strategy will include a specific drug education curriculum provided to students in each learning team
- Age appropriate resources will be used to enhance the curriculum
- Drug education will adopt a harm minimisation approach
- Drug education will be inclusive of resilience education, social emotional wellbeing and will encompass problem solving skills and appropriate coping strategies
- Students will participate biennially in a drug education program provided by Life Education Australia
- The school will develop a network base of community agencies to assist in the implementation of drug education
- Drug education will be taught as part of the Health component of the Inquiry units with the emphasis on harm minimisation, resisting the pressure to use drugs and allowing students to make educated choices
- Teaching strategies and programs will focus specifically on the social and thinking skills to make informed decisions about drugs
- Professional development on drug education will be provided for teachers and parent information session will be conducted as deemed necessary

Prevention

- The Health curriculum will provide meaningful and accurate information on drugs and its related issues
- The drug aspect of the Health curriculum is based on a harm minimisation approach
- Students with special health care needs and risks will be identified and individual strategies for ongoing management and emergencies will be set in place
- Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) lessons to cover social situations and role plays that relate to drugs and decision making where appropriate

Identification

- Teachers will provide a supportive environment for students through strategies outlined in the Behaviour Management Policy
- The Student Wellbeing and Engagement leader will liaise with relevant personnel and agencies

Intervention

In the event of a serious drug related incident, the teacher will:

- Summon or administer first aid where appropriate
- Take necessary actions to ensure the safety of students and others
- Seek assistance from the Principal and/or Assistant Principal
- Establish the related facts
- Contact parents after consulting with the Principal class
- Where appropriate, the police will be involved i.e. Illegal drug use
- When a student is 'at risk' the Department of Health and Community Services will be contacted.
- Refer to the Mandatory Reporting Policy and guidelines

Indicators of successful implementation will include:

- Documented consultations with staff, parents and the community
- The development and delivery of related units of work
- Guidelines for dealing with drug related incidents
- Staff awareness of teachers with first aid qualifications
- The provision of professional development for staff and information for parents and caregivers
- The level of student engagement and understanding of drug education

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school review process.

References:

DEECD: Individual School Drug Education Strategy (ISDES)
School based resources developed around the harm minimization strategy
Life Education Australia and (Teacher resources and student Workbook)
Findon Medication Policy
Findon Anaphylaxis Policy (School Yard, Camps and Excursions, Classroom flowcharts)
Findon Diabetes Policy
Findon Asthma Policy
Mandatory Reporting Policy
Findon Inquiry Scope and Sequence
'Talking Tactics Together'
'Creating Conversations'
'Get Real'