DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

RATIONALE:

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. Drug education will be based on a harm minimisation approach.

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 and foster resilience which forms a strong basis for drug education at our school.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The school will follow 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.
- 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 (PATHS) 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, reducing the demand to use drugs and allowing students to make alternative 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 evenings will be conducted as deemed necessary.

Prevention

- The health curriculum will provide meaningful, accurate information on drugs and 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 set in place.
- Develop appropriate social skills program.
Identification
- Teachers will provide a supportive environment for students through strategies outlined in the Behaviour Management Policy.
- The Student Wellbeing and Engagement coordinator will liaise with relevant personnel and agencies.

Intervention
In the event of a serious drug related incident, the teacher will:
- summon/administer first aid where appropriate
- take necessary actions to ensure the safety of students and others
- seek assistance, confer with Principal, Assistant Principal or Student Welfare person
- establish the related facts
- contact parents and where appropriate the police.
- When a student is ‘at risk’ the Department of Health and Community services will be contacted. Also see mandatory reporting guidelines.
- The Principal will contact the police in cases of illegal drug use.

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
- guidelines for administering first aid and medications (including asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes)
- staff awareness of teachers with first aid qualifications
- the provision of professional development for staff and information for parents
- the level of student consultation

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
Findon Inquiry Scope and Sequence
‘Talking Tactics Together’
‘Creating Conversations’
‘Get Real’