
Drug Education Policy



Let Your Light Shine

2011

to be reviewed

2014

Drug Education Policy

Rationale

Drug use and drug related issues confront most communities at some time and in some way. St Francis Xavier's School realises that there is a need to provide a safe environment for the students and so has a role in identifying and implementing preventative drug education programmes.

This policy establishes the framework for the development of a whole school approach in the prevention and intervention of drug related issues.

Therefore, this policy strives to:

- promote the active partnership of home, parish and school and recognise the family as the primary focus of the educational process;
- recognise the individuality and dignity of each young person, and foster the development of each one's unique potential and spirituality; and
- develop a challenging, authentic and inclusive educational environment that encourages life long learning.

Within this policy, a drug is defined as,

“any substance with the exception of food and water which, when taken into the body, alters it's function physically and psychologically. This includes all legal and illegal substances.”

Aims

This policy aims to:

1. Focus on a harm minimisation approach in the development of drug education programmes based on abstinence, when dealing with all forms of drug use with the exception of medication;
2. Create opportunities for the professional development of teachers.
3. Develop teaching and learning strategies in relation to drug related issues across the curriculum;
4. Develop in students the skills, knowledge and understandings, values and attitudes to make informed decisions related to drugs;
5. Create opportunities for students to develop resiliency skills that will enable them to better cope with change.
6. Inform students and the school community about the consequences of drug use and taking risks.

Implementation

The school will consult the NSW PD/H/PE syllabus for the relevant stages of learning.

The scope and sequence for Stages 1 – 3 will be used for drug education in teaching programmes.

While preventative drug education is provided within the PD/H/PE syllabus, it is imperative that planning occurs across the whole curriculum especially in the areas of Religious Education and Pastoral Care.

Procedures

The school will review its current policies and procedures to ensure that drug education is in accordance with the following Diocesan policies;

- Pastoral Care
- Critical Incidents
- Privacy
- Child Protection
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Administering Medicines,
and any other relevant policy.

The staff will familiarise itself with the following information to support the development and implementation of school based drug education policies and practices.

- categories of drugs
- drugs in sport
- offences
- when to involve police
- searches – bags, desks, lockers
- personal searches
- confiscation and disposal
- reporting of incidents
- investigation and interviewing.

The Principal and staff will familiarise themselves with local community resources and support services, for example, the police and the local council.

Teachers will model appropriate safe behaviours to students, for example, the storage and administration of medicines.

Police will be called according to the guidelines of the policy statement on *Drug Education K – 12 2004*.

Bags, desks and personal items belonging to a student will only be searched when the Principal has reasonable grounds to believe that the student is in possession of a dangerous or unsanctioned item.

Personal body searches are only to be carried out by the Principal or their delegate if there is good reason to believe that the student is concealing a dangerous weapon, presenting a real and immediate threat to the safety of self and others. This would only be done in the immediate company of another executive member, following communication with the student's parent/guardian.

Teachers and other supervising adults, whilst at school related activities, eg dances, excursions, camps, abstain from and not be under the influence of alcohol, cigarettes etc.

Teachers and all supervising adults will not smoke cigarettes on school premises.

The Principal of St Francis Xavier's School will follow guidelines as found in the policy statement on *Drug Education K – 12 2004*, (p 13 Support Material) if a student is found in possession of a drug without a valid reason.

In the event of a drug offence, that may require the suspension or expulsion of a student, St Francis Xavier's staff will refer to the procedures in the Diocesan Pastoral Care Policy 2003, p3 Implementation – Immediate Suspension.

Budget

To set an appropriate amount from within the annual school budget that will ensure the effectiveness of this Policy.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed in 3 years or as required by CSO or Board of Studies amendments.

This will be done by

- the teaching staff
- other nominated personnel

The Assistant Principal is responsible for the co-ordination of policy reviews.