SUPPORTING TEACHING AND LEARNING

DRUG EDUCATION

GENERAL STATEMENT
The use of drugs, including legal, illegal and pharmaceutical drugs, is common in our society. Concord School students are exposed to drug-related issues at home, school and in the wider community. The appropriate skills and knowledge will be taught to minimise drug-related harm for students.

RATIONALE
Definition:
Drug Education involves specific drug knowledge including legal and illegal drugs and their effects, safety issues, risks of misuse and effects on the individual and society. This should be taught under the ‘harm minimisation’ approach. Skills and knowledge will assist students to make informed decisions about drug use and other potentially harmful situations. Resilience and problem-solving strategies comprise a large part of drug education. Students are encouraged to view drug-taking within a societal context and therefore need to be able to develop refusal skills in difficult and dangerous situations. Anti-bullying techniques should be discussed and practised. Social skills such as assertiveness, and coping strategies developed in role plays, can be transferred to bullying or dangerous situations which may involve drug-taking.

BROAD GUIDELINES
This policy aims to:
• provide all students with an age appropriate Drug Education curriculum.
• ensure that drug education is embedded across all key curriculum learning areas.

IMPLEMENTATION
• The Drug Education Program will be formally taught following the guidelines that have been developed in the Concord School Social Competency Curriculum. This documentation is based on the DET guidelines using the harm minimisation approach and has been developed to meet the special needs of Concord School students.
• Cross-curricula drug education is the responsibility of all class teachers and will be inclusive of resilience education, conflict resolution, assertiveness training and problem solving. The formal teaching of the program will be the responsibility of the specialist Social Competency teachers in each section.
• The Drug Education program is taught within a smoke-free school approach.
• Forums will involve Transition students, with teacher assistance, providing parents and community members with Drug Education information.
• Professional development regarding Drug Education will be provided for relevant staff.
• School newsletter items will inform parents and the school community of updates and current Drug Education information.

Procedures to Deal With Illicit Drug Related Incidents
• Teachers have a duty of care to prevent injury and must advise the School Principal of any student involvement with illicit drugs.
• The Principal is also required to notify the parents/carers of the relevant students.
• The Principal must refer to the police an alleged criminal offence concerning the use, possession or distribution of illicit drugs (this would include misuse of medicinal drugs). Support which may include counselling will be offered to students in such circumstances with the permission of parents/carers.
• Where possible, counselling and discussions with students and parents/carers should be done within a health and non-punitive model.

REFERENCES
• DET website http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/drugedubackground.aspx
CONCORD SCHOOL
POLICY

- DET website – Drug Education for Teachers
- School Policy and Advisory Guide
- Website: www.druginfo.adf.org.au

EVALUATION
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.
CONCORD SCHOOL POLICY

DRUG RELATED INCIDENT PLAN (Stay calm)

FOLLOW-UP ACTION
Assess the impact on other students.
- Were others involved?
- Are other students affected?
- Contact Work Safe (132360) in case of fumes, poisons or accidents at school.

IMMEDIATE FIRST AID RESPONSE
Call ambulance if required (000)

Inform the School Principal
Contact Parents / Carers

CONTACT
Emergency Management 9589 6266
If believed to be an illegal substance – Victoria Police 000
Contact your Regional Office
Contact the Catholic Education Office in your Diocese
Association of Independent Schools Victoria 9825 7242

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE
- Try to establish what substance/s has been consumed by student/s.
- Attend to the safety and welfare needs of students.
- Collect the facts: who, what where and how?
- Try to find out method of use, where, amount, what and when?
- Secure substance if possible
- Ensure safe handling of substance and/or disposal of sharps.
- Monitor student/s continuously
- Isolate the situation from other students if possible.

DEALING WITH GROUPS
- Approach in a non-threatening way.
- Non punitive approach at this stage.
- Avoid threats and ultimatums
- Stay with the group.
- Don’t argue.
- Don’t chase (particularly with inhalant use).
- Focus on most cooperative.
- Involve group in problem solving action.
- Consider safety for all including yourself.

CASE MANAGEMENT TEAM
A case management team may comprise of a:
- student welfare coordinator
- member of admin team
- year level co-ordinator
- classroom teacher
- school nurse
- student support service officer
- any other health professional.

The case management team should:
- gather and verify information
- allocate tasks and roles
- document information
- develop a communication strategy
- consider interventions
- consider sanctions
- monitor, evaluate and reflect.

Schools should aim to have student/s returned to school and resume normal school activities as soon as possible. Careful facilitation is required.

Avoid labelling a student or jumping to conclusions.

Maintain confidentiality at all times. Share only the information that needs to be shared with those who need to know.

SHORT TERM RESPONSE
- Investigate and document the facts
- Allow time for clarification
- Ensure the principal has been informed. The principal will take responsibility for informing relevant senior staff including wellbeing staff.

LONG TERM RESPONSE
Principal in consultation with wellbeing staff and case management team needs to implement short, medium and long term responses.
- Debrief staff where appropriate.
- Debrief those students who may have witnessed any incident.
- Offer support to parents/carers.
- Discuss what information, if any needs to be shared with the whole school community.
- Prepare media response if required by contacting media unit (9637 2871).
- Offer employment assistance scheme to affected staff 1300 361 008.

The following resources provide additional frameworks for schools and support systems for students in relation to drug issues in schools.

- **Preventing drug-related harm – A guide for the Student Welfare Coordinator**: This resource provides a set of evidence-based guidelines and tools to assist schools and their communities to address truancy and the associated risk of problematic substance use.