DRUG EDUCATION and MANAGEMENT Policy

Rationale

The college accepts the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to drug education across the whole school community. This school acknowledges that it is only one part of a community response to drug issues. While acknowledging that drugs are present in the wider community Brunswick Secondary College will maintain an environment where the exposure to and risk of harm from drugs is minimised.

The College acknowledges that tobacco and alcohol cause the most harm to our community.

The college aims to develop and maintain a health-promoting environment. The possession, use, selling and distribution of substances such as tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, inappropriately used prescription drugs and all illicit drugs at school constitute a health and safety risk and breach of school rules.

Supportive efforts will be made to maintain appropriate educational pathways for students caught up in drug-related issues.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy document, a drug is defined as any substance which when taken into the body alters its function physiologically, cognitively or emotionally. This includes but is not limited to analgesics, alcohol, cannabis, steroids, nicotine (ie, tobacco products), amphetamines as well as solvents which are inhaled such as glue and paint. For the purpose of this policy, properly prescribed and administered prescription drugs are not included in the definition of a drug and instead shall be termed ‘medication’.

Implementation

The college aims to enhance the emotional, physical and social health of all students. Wherever possible and appropriate, the school will inform and support families and link to student support services officers and or community service providers for counselling and treatment.

Brunswick Secondary College will implement this policy on the following principles

- Drug education is to be an ongoing core component of the curriculum with this supported by appropriate prevention and intervention programs
- As per the recommendation of the ‘Volatile Solvents – Health and Safety Guidelines’, use of volatile solvents (chroming) will be excluded from the curriculum given there is no widespread use of these poisons as drugs at the school


- Drug related school based policies will be developed and/or reviewed on at least a four-yearly basis
- The college will provide a supportive environment that respects and acknowledges the values of the school community in drug-related curriculum and welfare issues.
To achieve this the college will

- Maintain a common approach to drug education curricula and student welfare procedures throughout the school.
- Expect all members of the school community to acknowledge their responsibility to act as role models for those around them.
- Adopt the harm minimization approach advocated by the Victorian government as the basis for this policy. This approach aims to improve health, social and economic outcomes for both the community and the individual and encompasses a wide range of approaches.
- Establish and enforce appropriate school rules and consequences in alignment with the DEECD Student Engagement Guidelines and in support of a harm minimisation approach.
- Review this policy and the current drug education programs every four years.
- Incorporate the principles of this policy into the school code of conduct.
- Embed timely and developmentally appropriate drug education programs within a curriculum framework that utilises effective pedagogy.

General Requirements of the school relating to drugs

The college does not permit students, while in or near the school environment, on school camps or excursions or events to:

- Consume, possess, use, distribute, sell or be under the influence of any drug.
- Possess, use, distribute or sell drug related equipment
- Sell any legal or illegal drugs including medications.
- Advertise the use of drugs in any way including through fashion or personal items.

Any student who possesses, uses or deliberately assists others to use illegal drugs will be dealt with in accordance with the attached behaviour consequences. All disciplinary action will take into account the circumstances of the event and any previous incident/s involving the student as well as the DEECD Student Engagement Policy Guidelines and Ministerial Order 184 (suspensions and expulsions). To be changed according to new orders and Student engagement guidelines.

Appropriately prescribed medicines use needs to be monitored with parental support. Brunswick Secondary College requires parents and guardians to notify the college of ALL prescribed medication that need to be taken on school premises. As indicated in the DEECD School Policy and Advisory Guide (SPAG).


Areas of Drug Education

Elements of education relating to drug use will occur across a number of faculties but the curriculum in Health and Physical Education will directly address many issues relating to drug education, including the following features

- Facts about drugs which give accurate information
- Harm minimisation - an approach to education about drug use. This approach acknowledges that many young people will use drugs at some stage in their lives, and need information to make informed decisions about drug use to minimise the harmful effects associated with it.
- Communication with friends and family
- Drugs and the law
- Self esteem and self confidence - skills to help oneself and to help others

Likely consequences of breaching school rules around drug use

A student in breach of school rules, policies or codes will be liable to a range of consequences that may include:

- Informing and consulting parents
- Environmental Service at school
- Being sent home from camps or events
- Suspension from school
- Notifying Victoria Police *
- Expulsion from school
- **Students may also have access to the following opportunities of support**
  - Counselling by members of the Student Welfare Team
  - Referral to an outside agency


* Principals must:
  - Advise the local police contact person (station commander or sub-officer nominee) when they have knowledge of an alleged criminal offence, including the possession, use and distribution of illicit drugs
  - Document internal procedures and actions undertaken.
**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.

**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 co-operative.
- 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.

---

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.
Parents will be contacted in all cases outlined below except where to do so would conflict with the legally enforceable Duty of Care owed to the student. Ambulance, emergency or other services will be called prior to the school contacting parents if required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behaviour</th>
<th>First Offence</th>
<th>Further Offence/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>Smoking, lighting or possessing tobacco products.</td>
<td>Warning and counselling Parent contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being under the influence</td>
<td>Arriving at school under the influence of a drug. (see Ambulance note above)</td>
<td>Parents contacted and asked to take student to medical care. Possible Suspension Welfare support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession</td>
<td>Possessing a drug other than tobacco or any equipment for drug use at school or events.</td>
<td>Parents contacted Suspension Welfare support Contact Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use</td>
<td>Using or deliberately assisting another person to use a drug at school or school events. (see Ambulance note above)</td>
<td>Parents contacted and asked to take student to medical care. Possible Suspension Welfare support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown drugs</td>
<td>Being under the influence of unknown drugs (see Ambulance note above)</td>
<td>Parents contacted and asked to take student to medical care. Possible Suspension Welfare support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug dealing</td>
<td>Selling any drugs or prescription drugs to students or others, with or without intention to profit</td>
<td>Expulsion Contact police</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEECD STUDENT ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES

4.3.3 Grounds for suspension
A principal may suspend a student if, while attending school or travelling to or from school or engaged in any school activity away from the school (including travel to or from that activity), the student:
- behaves in such a way as to threaten or constitute a danger to the health, safety or wellbeing of any person; or
- Commits an act of significant violence against a person or causes significant damage to or destruction of property or is knowingly involved in the theft of property; or
- Possesses, uses, or deliberately assists another person to use prohibited drugs or substances; or
- Fails to comply with any reasonable and clearly communicated instruction of a principal, teacher or other staff member; or
• Consistently behaves in a manner that interferes with the wellbeing, safety or educational opportunities of any other student; or
• Consistently engages in behaviour that vilifies, defames, degrades or humiliates another person based on age; breastfeeding; gender identity; impairment; industrial activity; lawful sexual activity; marital status; parental status or status as a carer; physical features; political belief or activity; pregnancy; race; religious belief or activity; sexual orientation; personal association (whether as a relative or otherwise) with a person who is identified by reference to any of the above attributes.

4.3.5 Procedures for immediate suspension
The principal may suspend a student immediately and prior to convening a student support group meeting if the student behaves in such a way that would provide the basis for a suspension ordinarily, and their behaviour is such that they are putting the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves, staff or other students at significant risk.

4.4.2 Grounds for expulsion
A principal may expel a student if, while attending school or travelling to or from school or engaged in any school activity away from the school (including travel to or from that activity):
• The student does anything for which they could be suspended (see Element 4, Section 4.3.3)
• The student’s behavior is of such magnitude that, having regard to the need of the student to receive an education compared to the need to maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of other staff and students at the school and the need to maintain the effectiveness of the school’s educational programs, an expulsion is the only available mechanism.

Resources

Student Engagement Guidelines, (2009)


Medications (2013)

Drug Education

Volatile substances