



DRUG POLICY

Authority

This policy is consistent with DECS *Intervention matters: A policy statement and procedural framework for the management of suspected drug-related incidents in schools.* (revised 2011)

(<http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/drugstrategy/pages/documents/intervention>)

This policy was developed by the school's Learner Wellbeing team in consultation with students, staff, parents and community partners, and endorsed by the SRC, staff and Governing Council in July 2011.

Context and overarching policy statement

Ardrrossan Area School is a Reception to Year 12 school on the Yorke Peninsula. The school is committed to maintaining a safe, secure and supportive environment for its community and recognises engagement in learning as a strong protective factor against drug-related and other risks for young people. This policy links to a range of curriculum; policies and procedures; and positive school environment initiatives.

Our school takes action to prevent drug use by students and to intervene if it occurs by taking a whole of school approach. The use, possession and/or distribution of illicit drugs and the unsanctioned use and distribution of drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs, are not accepted. Suspected drug-related incidents will be responded with a mix of educative, deterrent and disciplinary responses, mindful of the need to consider principles of natural justice and legal obligations and of managing risks for the school and for DECS.

Links to other school initiatives

Our school has a commitment to learner wellbeing and engagement. This policy also relates to our school's medication management, OHS&W and curriculum policies, and our school's behaviour code. Drug education is taught as part of a sequential and developmentally appropriate curriculum and student resiliency and wellbeing are promoted.

Partnerships are made with parents, South Australian Police (SAPOL), local health and community agencies to assist our school to address drug issues.

The following principles of natural justice and procedural fairness will apply in the management of suspected drug-related incidents, as outlined in Appendix D of *Intervention matters*:

- the right to be informed of the form of the proceedings
- the right to be represented by an advocate of choice
- the right to know what is alleged
- the right to be heard and to question evidence
- the right to impartial adjudication
- the qualified right to privacy
- the right to appeal
- and (in potentially very serious incidents with legal implications) the right of the students to legal representation

If suspected drug-related incidents occur and drug issues arise, they will be managed and responded to in ways that: minimise the harm to all members of the school community and ensure the wellbeing, educational future and ongoing support for the student involved are both firm and fair

A drug related incident could include students in the suspected use, possession and/or distribution of either illicit or unsanctioned drugs. It may also involve students suspected of possessing or using drug paraphernalia. Merely possessing some possible drug-related paraphernalia is not illegal, but is against school rules and subject to disciplinary action.

Involvement with drugs, including illicit and unsanctioned drugs, means that school personnel have reason to believe that, on school grounds or when students are in the care of school staff:

- **drugs have been or are being used**
- **students are or have been in possession of drugs or instruments used with drugs**
- **students are or have been present when drugs are being used by others**

Procedure

In the event of a suspected drug-related incident:

- The safety and wellbeing of students will be considered paramount: they may need to be treated as unwell in accordance with the school's health plan and/or emergency procedures
- Parents will be contacted in instances of possession, use or distribution of drugs
- Police will be informed in instances of possession, use or distribution of: illicit drugs; drug paraphernalia; and/or illegal behaviour involving legal substances; and/or when an unidentified substance is suspected of being a drug
- The regional office will be advised when suspected drug-related incidents involve the police and/or when an incident poses a risk to the school or to DECS. The incident will be then recorded through the Incident and Response Management System (IRMS)
- Consequences may vary and will depend on the nature of the situation, its potential for harm and the circumstances of the individual students involved. However, they could involve suspension or exclusion

Follow-up support for student wellbeing will be implemented.

Definitions

Medication

- Prescribed or over-the-counter drugs such as analgesics

Drugs

- Alcohol, tobacco, other non-illegal drugs or chemicals
- Illicit/illegal drugs include cannabis, ecstasy and amphetamines
- Instruments used for consuming drugs

Involvement means

- The use of drugs
- The possession of drugs or instruments used for consuming drugs
- Being present when one or more students are using drugs

Inappropriate Use of Drugs

The school does not allow:

- The use of prohibited drugs
- The inappropriate use of prescribed or over the counter medicines
- The inappropriate use of solvents or other chemical agents
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages
- The smoking of tobacco or other drugs
- The possession of drug related objects, such as syringes, bongos or pipes

Prescribed Medication (eg Insulin, Ritalin, asthma medication)

Injection/Oral

Students must not carry any medication to be taken during the day. If prescribed medication is required, it needs to be handed in to the front office in the morning. The parent/caregiver needs to complete an 'Authorisation to Release' form and provide authorisation from a doctor. The exception is asthma reliever medication, where immediate access is required by the student for safety. (Ref:DECS, Health support planning in schools, preschools and childcare services, pg 25)

Any prescribed medication handed in to the front office needs to be clearly labelled with the student's name, home group or class, with details of how and when it is to be administered

Over the counter/analgesics (eg. Panadol, Disprin) Oral

In accordance with DECS Health support planning guidelines. School staff should store and supervise only that medication which has been prescribed by a doctor for a student for a specified period of time and used according to an agreed plan. Therefore, if any student requires analgesics the parent will be contacted to either administer these or take the child home.

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