



Drugs- Illicit (Student Use Of)

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The Hazard - Drugs (Illicit) - Student Use Of Illegal drug use by students (including the misuse of prescription medication) increases the risk of injury to the students themselves and to others, as well as impairing the ability of students to respond appropriately in an emergency.

St Joseph's Primary School's Policy St Joseph's Primary School is committed to providing a safe environment for all our students, workers and visitors.

It is our policy that:

- the use, possession and supply of illicit drugs and/or drug paraphernalia (such as pipes or 'bongs') by students is strictly prohibited;
- while on school property, or representing the school in any way, students are not permitted to be under the influence of illicit drugs;
- all students will receive age appropriate health and drug education to enable and support them to make informed choices, and to minimise the harm associated with drug use; and
- referrals to counselling and support groups will be provided to students with drug related problems.

Dealing with a Student affected by Drugs

Where a student exhibits obvious signs of drug use a staff member shall:

- isolate the student from the student's peers in a calm and controlled manner (if possible);
- if this is not possible and an impaired student refuses to cooperate and/or becomes agitated, ensure that any other students within the immediate vicinity are removed from harm and attempt to calm the student until such time as other staff members are able to provide assistance;
- ask the student to accompany them to the school administration office; and
- contact the Principal or other appropriate senior member of staff to inform them of the situation.

The Principal shall then make an assessment of the student's condition and take appropriate action based on the facts. This may include contacting the student's parents/carers to inform them of the incident and requesting that they remove the student from the school grounds, and/or calling the police in the event that the student is acting in an aggressive or threatening manner.

Drug Overdose or Poisoning

A student who takes illicit drugs may be at risk of an overdose or poisoning. Symptoms of a possible overdose or poisoning include:

- nausea and/or vomiting;
- dizziness;
- rapid pulse;
- blurred vision;
- headache;
- stomach cramps;
- burning pain in mouth or throat;
- ringing in the ears;
- fits;
- confusion;
- breathing problems; and
- drowsiness, which may lead to unconsciousness.

Signs of poisoning may include burns around the mouth and a smell of fumes or odours.

Drug Overdose or Poisoning Response

In the event that a student may be exposed to danger from drugs or poisons, first aid should be sought and administered. Refer to First Aid and Medical Treatment.

These additional steps may also be taken:

- contact emergency 000 and request an ambulance and/or Police;
- contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 for advice whilst awaiting the ambulance;
- check the security of the environment and do not place yourself at risk (eg in the case of inhaled poisons);
- provide immediate first aid and as necessary monitor the person at all times;
- clear the area of onlookers;
- if a drug overdose or poisoning occurs, obtain a history and for medicine bottles, containers or syringes;
- ascertain what poison or medicine the person has taken, including how much and when;
- talk calmly with the person, offering to help by way of listening;
- in the case of swallowed poison, do not try and make the person vomit unless advised by the Poisons Information Centre; and
- record factual written information about the situation as soon as possible, or when circumstances allow.

Critical Incident Notification

A drug overdose is a critical incident and must be referred to the **CIT Leader** as soon as it is safe to do so.

Workers' Responsibility

All workers are responsible to ensure that:

- they follow the guidelines set out in this policy when dealing with a student that they believe may be under the influence of illicit drugs;
- all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety and welfare of students from both known and reasonably foreseeable illicit drug related risks of harm and/or injury;
- the Principal or other senior staff members are informed if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student is involved in illicit drug related behaviour;
- prescription drugs are not supplied or administered to students unless following the directions set out in the Medication Administration Policy; and
- students are asked to display their possessions or contents of their bag in the presence of another teacher, where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion that they have illicit drugs in their possession.

Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- staff duty of care;
- student education via ongoing age appropriate drug education programs integrated into classroom learning;
- development of drug safe culture by promoting student awareness in drug abuse;
- effective incident notification procedures;
- effective communication procedures;
- effective record keeping procedures; and
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

Related Policies

Alcohol (Student Use Of) Policy
Medication Administration Policy
First Aid And Medical Treatment
Critical Incident Management Policy