



Warracknabeal Secondary College

Alcohol, smoking and other drugs policy

Rationale:

The use of cigarettes, alcohol, illicit and unsanctioned licit drugs is a wellbeing and safety issue for both the user and those exposed to the impact of these substances. *Use, possession and/or distribution of these substances are prohibited on school grounds and at school events by students, staff, parents or any other person.* Establishing a safe learning environment for all students without the influence of these substances is essential. Warracknabeal Secondary College takes seriously the responsibility it has to establish and maintain a safe learning environment, but also the responsibility to educate young people about the impact of alcohol and other drugs as a preventative measure.

Aims:

- support the whole school approach to reducing alcohol and other drug use and associated harm
- provide support for students involved in unsanctioned alcohol and other drug use
- create and maintain a safe learning environment

Implementation:

Preventative measures:

- Health Education in Year 7 to 9 to explicitly cover alcohol and other drug education
- Newsletter articles and events to promote information on alcohol and other drugs to broader school community
- Staff members act on their duty of care to report knowledge of illicit drug use by a student or a student's family member. Staff cannot offer unconditional confidentiality to students about these issues.

Supporting students involved with alcohol and other drugs:

- Contact made with parent/guardian to inform them of the concern (if appropriate)
- Referral to Alcohol and Drugs counselling through Grampians Community Health or make a SOCS referral if more appropriate
- Additional educational resources and assignments to be completed by the student
- The school will make every possible attempt to retain the student in the school system, recognising the negative impact that disengagement can cause.
- Privacy of the student involved will be paramount to prevent secondary harm

Response to an incident:

- The possession, use, distribution and selling of illicit drugs and unsanctioned licit drugs on school premises or at any function or activity organised by the school or travelling to and from school is prohibited.
- The following response will be made if this occurs:
 - A first aid assessment will be made (if required)
 - Substances will be confiscated immediately along with any associated paraphernalia. Failure to do so will result in an immediate suspension. Substances will be destroyed or returned to parents (in the case of cigarettes/alcohol or given to police in the case of illegal drugs)
 - Lockers can be searched (if required) to follow up on a belief it contains prohibited materials. Student will be required to empty bags to assist in the search. Failure to do so will result in the police being contacted.
 - The student will be sanctioned according to the suspension and expulsion guidelines when appropriate: "Possesses, uses or sells or deliberately assists another person to possess, use or sell illicit substances or weapons."
 - Police will be contacted if an alleged criminal offence has occurred (possession, use and distribution of an illicit drug)

Exceptions:

- Alcohol can be consumed on the school premises and at specific school events with School Council approval (for example, Graduation Dinner)

Definitions:

- Illicit Drugs: drugs that are prohibited under Australian federal and state laws. Includes: e-cigarettes that contain nicotine.
- Unsanctioned Licit Drugs include: prescription drugs not prescribed to the student, cigarettes used/possessed by an adult student, e-cigarettes that do not contain nicotine, misuse of an intoxicating substance/drug (paint, glue, sprays, other medicines)
- Paraphernalia: bongos, pipes, e-cigarettes, etc.

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Ratified by School Council

Date:

20/3/17

Signed:

Principal:



School Council President: