

Drugs Policy

1. Rationale / Background

The Drug Policy at Montrose Bay High School sets out the basic principles and minimum requirements for determining our approach to drug issues, including drug education. It is consistent with the Departmental position and guides the school in their dealings with drug issues. Due to legal ramifications, drug-related incidents must meet State and Departmental protocols as outlined on the Department of Education website.

2. Requirements / Outcomes

Prevention

- To ensure that there are age-appropriate drug education programs in place.
- To teach the principles of harm minimisation through drug education to all students.
- To provide a safe and supportive environment, maximising the factors that are known to be protective for students in reducing risk behaviours.
- To administer prescribed medications responsibly in accordance with Department of Education guidelines.
- To ensure students are made aware that the possession, use and/or distribution and/or sale of tobacco, illicit drugs, prescription medications and any chemical agents is prohibited at school or school associated activities or whilst travelling to or from school, and are made aware of the school's policies and procedures in relation to drug use.

Intervention

To respond appropriately to drug-related incidents:

- Be fair and consistent with implementing procedures.
- Recognise the needs and safety of others in the school.
- Recognise the role of Tasmania Police in establishing protocols for managing drug related incidents in schools.
- Utilise the resources of District Support Services and community service providers in ensuring that responses to students' drug-related behaviours are comprehensive and coordinated.
- Seek to ensure that students involved in drug-related incidents remain connected to an educational or vocational pathway.

Responsibilities

Senior staff will:

- Implement this policy within the school.
- Clarify roles and steps to be taken in relation to student management, securing drugs and related paraphernalia (as required by Tasmania Police), informing school staff, Department of Education authorities, families and Tasmania Police, liaising with other professionals and agencies and responding to the media.
- Work collaboratively with District Support Services staff and others in the school community to develop and implement specific, school-based drug policy and procedures, where appropriate and provide PD for staff on Drug Education.
- Ensure that policies and procedures for managing drug-related incidents are regularly reviewed, while protecting the privacy of individuals.
- Identify if and when it is appropriate to provide some advice about the incident and the response to it to staff, students, families and others who were not directly involved in the incident.
- Ensure that written records of drug-related incidents and interventions, that may be made available to the Department, are maintained on students' files for a minimum for seven years and that Departmental reporting requirements are adhered to.

Teachers will:

- Ensure their close familiarity with the school policies and procedures for responding to drug-related incidents, and act within them.
- Be aware of and act upon their legal obligations when necessary, including mandatory reporting obligations.
- Ensure that curriculum content for which they are responsible is consistent with this policy.
- Contribute to the provision of a safe and supportive environment in our school.
- Ensure that they do not possess or take, and are not under the influence of any illicit or unsanctioned drug while attending the school or a school function.

Other staff will:

- Ensure they are familiar with the school policies and procedures.
- Contribute to the provision of a safe and supportive environment in the school.
- Ensure that they do not possess or take, and are not under the influence of any illicit or unsanctioned drug while attending the school or a school function.

Parents / Carers will:

- Support the school policies and procedures in relation to drug use.
- Take care that they do not possess or take, and are not under the influence of any illicit or unsanctioned drug while in the school or attending a school function.
- Ensure, where possible, that no illicit or unsanctioned drugs are taken onto school premises or to school functions/activities, and that no illicit or unsanctioned drugs are used or distributed on those premises or at those functions/activities.

Students will:

- Contribute to the development of, become familiar with, and respect the school's policies and procedures in relation to drug use.
- Ensure that no illicit or unsanctioned drugs are brought onto school premises or to school functions/activities, and that no illicit or unsanctioned drugs are used or distributed on those premises or at those functions/activities.
- Ensure that they do not possess or take, and are not under the influence of any illicit or unsanctioned drug while attending the school or a school function.

Additional Information

- Comprehensive information and documents detailing the Department of Education's guidelines and policies on drugs in schools is available from the website.
- Workplace Standards will also need to be notified immediately.

Review date: