



Drug Education Policy



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Xiaomei Lin 98017450

Rationale:

Drug Education is a joint responsibility between school, home, and the broader community. Drug Education will be provided at all levels of schooling and will include specific drug education curriculum as well as resilience education, problem solving skill and appropriate coping strategies.

Drug education will be based on a Harm Minimisation approach.

Aims:

- Drug Education will focus on a prevention model.
- To provide all students with a comprehensive, age-appropriate drug education curriculum.
- To ensure that drug education is embedded across all key curriculum learning areas.
- That resilience education forms a strong basis for drug education at our school.
- School drug education aims to prevent:
 - a) harmful drug use
 - b) illicit drug use
 - c) inappropriate alcohol consumption
 - d) solvent use.

School drug education utilises a whole school approach to health promotion, prevention and early intervention to student wellbeing and engagement, based on the principles of harm minimisation. It aims to promote resilience, and build on knowledge, skills, and behaviors to enable young people to make responsible, healthy, and safe choices.

It encompasses all policies, practices, programs, and initiatives connected with prevention and reduction of drug-related harm, and the building of resilience in individuals and school communities. Schools should implement relevant and comprehensive drug education for all students as an ongoing core component of the curriculum. Schools must:

- Obtain school council approval before alcohol may be consumed on school premises or at school approved activities.
- Ensure the legal requirements for the sale and/or provision of alcohol in public situations at school functions are enforced.
- Prohibit the consumption of alcohol by students at school, or any school organised activity, during school hours.
- Have a policy and procedures for responding to students who have been drinking during school hours and/or brought alcohol onto school premises.

Note: If school council approves the consumption of alcohol on school premises, they must ensure adherence to the responsible service of alcohol requirements.

Functions on school premises

When considering whether to allow the consumption of alcohol on school premises, councils should consider:

- The Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 from which schools are not exempt.
- School community attitudes
- School policies related to drug education and health and wellbeing.
- Examples of the type of applications that the school council may approve are:
- Private functions organised by the council if students are not present.
- Outside organisations hiring or leasing school buildings
- Private staff functions which exclude students.

Note: Further information, including types of liquor licenses, and when a licence is required can be obtained from Department of Justice - Responsible Alcohol Victoria, phone 1300-650-367.

Functions off school premises

When alcohol is sold at school functions off premises, students under 18 may only be present if they are:

- Accompanied and under direct supervision by parents/guardians or a spouse over the age of 18.
- Engaged in a hospitality training program, employment, or work experience.
- Approved by the Director of Liquor Licensing under section 122 of the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998
- On premises which have an 'on premises' license granted as a restaurant and the function occurs during regular trading hours
- Attending a function as approved by Liquor Licensing Victoria considering the above requirements.

Note: A temporary liquor licence is required for events where 'payment' is required to attend the event and the ticket price includes the supply of alcohol and/or over the counter sales.

Important: Students should not be involved in fundraising events which have an alcoholic beverage as a prize.

During school hours

It is the role of the principal acting in accord with the school's student engagement and drug education policies, to determine how to respond to students who have:

- Been drinking during school hours.
- Brought alcohol onto school premises.

Note: Such incidents are very serious. The principal should notify police if the source of supply, such as a retailer, can be identified.

School camps and excursions

This table explains the treatment of alcohol consumption on excursions or school camps.

Who	Rules
Students	Consumption of alcohol is prohibited regardless of the student's age. Offenders will be: ▪ sanctioned in accordance with the student engagement policy. ▪ where appropriate, returned to school or home.
Staff	Must inform parents/guardians and students before departure of: - the alcohol prohibition - the sanctions that could be expected for offending act in accordance with their duty of care to students, which is in force during the entire time of the camp or excursion. be aware that consumption of alcohol by staff during camps or excursions is: - inconsistent with the standard of professional conduct necessary to maintain community confidence in these activities - is considered unwise - could lead to allegations of negligence and loss of WorkCover rights.

Drug Use

Schools must:

- Provide all students with drug education prevention and intervention programs.
- Involve parents/guardians and the wider school community in drug-related curriculum and wellbeing issues.
- Prohibit 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.
- Develop or review policy to support the management of drug-related incidents.
- Make every effort to retain students in the education system because students are often at greater risk if disengaged from school.

Harm minimisation.

- Refers to policies and programs designed to reduce drug-related harm.
- Aims to improve health, social and economic outcomes for both the community and the individual and encompasses a wide range of approaches.
- Schools use a harm minimisation approach to review and implement school drug education programs and activities that:
 - Are comprehensive and evidence based.
 - Promote a positive school climate and relationships.
 - Are targeted to needs and contexts identified through consultation with students, staff, and parents.
 - Embed timely, developmentally appropriate drug education programs within a curriculum framework that utilises effective pedagogy.

Harm Minimisation Aims

Aim	Description
Prevent and reduce drug related harm	Includes: - prevention through education and creating respectful and safe schools. - early intervention to prevent later harmful drug use.
Drug related incident response	Includes: - ensuring the response is well managed. - student wellbeing is paramount. - utilising partnerships with parents/caregivers and police (when necessary) - ensuring the response does not cause any secondary harm, such as social stigmatisation, reduced self-worth, and associated truancy.

Responding to drug related incidents

This table identifies immediate and subsequent responses to drug related incidents when student/s are suspected of possessing, distributing, or using a drug, including being drug affected.

Timing	Response
Immediate response	- Focus on the safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved. - Stay calm. - Gather any: - facts - relevant information - Make a first aid assessment (if necessary, seek medical support) - Seek assistance as soon as possible. - Safely collect any suspected drugs and drug paraphernalia - Inform the school administration. - Isolate the situation from other students, if possible.
Subsequent response when it is safe	Follow up to: - Inform parents/guardians of students involved in incident. - Notify health, community, and welfare services, if appropriate - Contact the police, if required - Establish a case management team to: - gather and verify information. - allocate tasks and roles. - document information. - develop a communication strategy. - consider interventions. - Consider sanctions in line with student engagement policies. - Monitor, evaluate and reflect.

Illicit drug use

This table explains the principles related to the management of illicit drug use.

Item	Description
Confidentiality: detoxification and pharmacotherapy treatment	Information about detoxification, methadone, or alternate pharmacotherapies: - o is a private matter. - o only needs to be shared between students and their: - o parent/guardian - o supporting community agency - o school designated student wellbeing staff. - o may be provided, at the principal's discretion, only: - o with the student's consent - o to staff who have direct responsibility for the student. Example: If the student's concentration or alertness may be affected by prescribed medication. Important: Students should not be excluded from attendance based on their ongoing detoxification.
Drug testing	The department does not support any form of drug testing in schools for teachers or students to avoid: - o raising a lack of trust between schools and students - o legal, technical, ethical, and financial issues.
Duty of care	Teachers have a duty of care to pass on information to the principal if they have knowledge about illicit drug use by students or members of a student's family irrespective of: whether the use: - o is confirmed, suspected or likely to occur. - o occurs on or outside school grounds. - o the drug used. Note: Under this duty of care staff cannot promise unconditional confidentiality to students.
Educational access during absence	Any student who is absent from school due to drug use or the resultant treatment should be provided with a Student Absence Learning Plan as determined by teachers in consultation with: - o parents/guardians - o the school's appointed case manager
Media	Schools should have procedures in place for dealing with the media. Principals are responsible for media contact, supported by: - o the regional director - o Department Media Unit (03) 9637-2871. See: Media Releases within Department resources
Parents	Principals should notify parents/guardians as soon as practicable.

Item	Description
	Note: Teachers and principals do not breach criminal law by failure to notify parents/guardians of the use of an illicit drug, but there are civil implications.
Police	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. They must also document internal procedures and actions undertaken. See: Police and DHS Interviews within Related policies
Professional development	Staff should be: - o informed of policies and procedures - o provided with professional development in responding to drug related incidents.

Prescription drugs

Taking prescription drugs without a prescription is illegal and use by staff or students is prohibited.

Volatile Substances

Schools must be prepared to:

- React to a volatile substance use emergency.
- Respond to evidence of volatile substance use with education and support from trained experts.

Warning: Volatile substance uses increases when publicity occurs, if there is no evidence of volatile substance use in the area, it may be counterproductive to raise the matter in the classroom.

Current national and state policies and strategies indicate that volatile substances should not form part of general school-based drug education programs. Department resources provide classroom-based information around volatile substances in the context of occupational health and safety and dealing with hazardous substances and poisons.

Specific, targeted education programs to address volatile substance use may be required for students who are already using these substances. These targeted education programs should be conducted outside of the classroom and conducted by trained experts and offered alongside school-based intervention support.

Definition

Volatile substances are chemicals that give off vapors and fumes at room temperature. These are also known as inhalants or solvents and can include volatile solvents, aerosols, gases, glues, and nitrites. These substances have psychoactive properties, and their inhalation can be potentially intoxicating. The effects will vary depending on the substance used, the amount inhaled, the method and duration of use, the physical and psychological profile of the user and the environment where used.

Volatile substance use, could cause:

- Uninhibited behavior
- Decreased heart and breathing rates.
- Suffocation

- Heart failure
- Unconsciousness
- Death by accident.

Readily available solvents, many of which are highly flammable, include:

- Glues
- Thinners
- Correction fluids
- Aerosol sprays
- Butane gas
- Petrol.

Actions and responses

If a volatile substance use emergency occurs:

Stay calm. When volatile substances have been ingested, maintaining a calm demeanor, and encouraging calm among others is particularly pertinent. If young people become panicked, or are startled by an unexpected intrusion, they are not only subject to the normal hazards of intoxication, they also risk 'sudden sniffing death' from cardiac arrest.

Assess the situation

Information can be obtained through observation or behavioral and physical symptoms, as well as by 'gentle' questioning.

Ensure safety and aid those overcome by effects

If a person who has been using volatile solvents is unconscious, drowsy, has chest pains, difficulty breathing, blurred vision, vomiting, or other symptoms that cause concern seek immediate medical assistance. Consider the safety of all involved, including yourself.

Seek further assistance if necessary

If there are concerns about the immediate health of students or the numbers of students involved send someone for support. Where possible do not leave students unattended.

Inform the school administration

An incident involving volatile substances should be reported to the principal. Depending on the severity and nature of the incident, it then becomes the principal's responsibility to fully document and report the incident to Emergency and Security Management, the regional office and where necessary to the Victorian Workcover Authority.

Contact parents/guardians

Parents/guardians of students involved in the incident should be contacted. Be aware of sensitivities associated with volatile substance use.

Important: As solvents make the body more sensitive to adrenaline, do not frighten or chase solvent users.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2027