

Prohibited Substances Education and Response Policy

RATIONALE

Drug use is a complex issue and drug use problems result from a combination of many contributing factors that affect the welfare and educational prospects of students. This policy aims to contribute to a positive, healthy and caring school environment in which students can achieve their full potential and develop interpersonal skills that will help them face challenges both in and out of College. At the same time we recognise the College's limitations on affecting drug use out of the College environment and the necessity to work with parents and community groups to minimise the harm to students.

Prevention/Education

A harm minimisation approach is the primary focus of this document and is recommended by the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the National Task Force on Drug Education. Abstinence is the preferred harm minimisation option, although we recognise the need to take the necessary action to reduce the risk and harm faced by those using drugs, whilst ensuring that this does not encourage or normalise drug use.

At Ashdale Secondary College we believe that drug education is integral to the well-being of our students. We aim to provide a safe and supportive environment for the school community. We endeavour to engage the whole-school community (families, parents, carers and guardians) and local partnerships in our drug education initiatives. We are committed to providing our students with health, well being and drug education and related interventions across all year levels.

Our *Prohibited Substances Education and Response Policy* is consistent with the Commonwealth Department of Education Science & Training *Principles for School Drug Education* document. The plan promotes a whole-school approach to drug education to establish and maintain a safe school environment. The school staff, students, parents and the wider-school community work together with the aim of preventing and reducing potential and existing risks of harm from drug use. Our plan has been developed in consultation with the whole school community to implement drug education and support interventions in a caring and consistent manner.

Curriculum

- Our *Prohibited Substances Education and Response Policy* as part of the Whole School Positive Behaviour Support Plan identifies age-appropriate drug education content across all year levels.
- We use evidence-based drug education resources such as Challenges and Choices, created by the WA State Government funded School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA - www.sdera.wa.edu.au).
- School administration supports staff to deliver appropriate drug education by allowing in-school time for planning, providing professional development opportunities for staff and allocating funds for resources and materials.
- Classroom programs focus on developing students' knowledge and understanding, attitudes and values and promote help-seeking behaviour.
- A minimum of three hours of drug education per term is provided to all students across each school year. (SDERA's Online Modules for Year 11&12)
- Learning is extended from the classroom to promote parent support of drug education programs (e.g. through the use of take-home activities).

Ethos and Environment

- A Health and Wellbeing Committee & CHAT subcommittee with representatives from the teaching and administration staff, school health service staff, students and parents is supported.
- Drug education is included in whole-school planning.
- All students have the opportunity to participate in drug education programs and initiatives.
- Our *Prohibited Substances Education and Response Policy* is reviewed on an annual basis within the Health and Wellbeing Committee and Executive Committee in consultation with the school community.

- School administration supports staff attendance at professional development to broaden their understanding and enhance their confidence in working well with drug use issues.
- We have developed and implemented Procedures for Incident Management and Intervention Support and these have been communicated through the whole-school community as a part of the *Prohibited Substances Education and Response Policy*.

Parents and Community

- Parents and families are involved in drug education initiatives.
- Drug education information and strategies for parents and families are provided on a regular basis through a variety of methods such as the newsletter, website and at school assemblies.
- SDERA's Connect Resource (www.sdera.wa.edu.au) is used to identify resources and agencies that support and complement our school drug education initiatives.
- Orientation packs to new staff members and families include our *Prohibited Substances Education and Response Policy*.
- A dedicated calendar of health and wellbeing events held annually which include a focus on drug education.
- Schooltv.me funded by the College to provide a community resource with information and support in relation to drug education

Ashdale Secondary College does not permit students while on school premises, at any school function, excursion or camp to:

- smoke and/or possess tobacco products
- consume, possess or be affected by alcohol
- consume and/or possess energy drinks
- possess and/or use pharmaceutical drugs for non-medicinal purposes
- possess and/or use volatile substances
- possess and/or use illicit drugs
- possess and/or use drug-related equipment, with the exception of those for intended legitimate medicinal use.

All school staff should confirm the procedures regarding the administration of medications.

Definitions

Drug: A medicine or other substance, which has a physiological effect when ingested or otherwise introduced into the body.

Legal substances: Substances that can be purchased over the counter, these can include but are not limited to Caffeine, Alcohol, Tobacco, over the counter prescription pharmaceuticals, energy drinks containing taurine.

Illegal and Illicit substances: Illegal Drugs include non-medical use of a variety of drugs that are prohibited by state, federal and international law. These drugs include amphetamine-type stimulants, cannabis, cocaine, heroin and other opioids and MDMA (ecstasy).