



# ST MUNCHIN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## PARENT HANDBOOK

### St Munchin's Catholic School Drug Policy

#### Rationale

A drug is any substance (with the exception of food) which, when taken into the body, alters its function physically and/or psychologically. Drug use is a complex issue and drug use problems result from a combination of many contributing factors. The use of drugs, including alcohol, caffeine, tobacco, pharmaceutical and illicit drugs is common in our society. Our students are exposed to drug related issues at home, school and in the wider community.

A standardised approach to Drug Education and incidents of use will be implemented at St. Munchin's Catholic School as a result of this policy.

The St. Munchin's Catholic School Drug Policy is binding to all members of the school community while they are on school premises or at a school function where there are students present. This includes students, staff, parents, volunteer staff, ground staff, other workers and visitors. This policy also applies to any functions held on school premises unless otherwise negotiated with the Principal.

#### Aims

This policy aims to:

1. Promote and maintain a health-promoting school environment in which the welfare of all school community members is paramount;
2. Identify the role of St Munchin's School Community in the prevention of drug related problems;
3. Document the school community's agreed position on, and accepted procedures for dealing with drug-related incidents and problems.

#### Drug Education

The following preventive measures will be implemented:

A comprehensive Health and Physical Education Program that contains Drug Education as part of the curriculum. This program includes the development of students' knowledge, attitudes, values and skills to enable them to make informed, responsible decisions about drug use as part of a healthy lifestyle. Drug Education will be conducted by each year level teacher and based upon the Drug Education K-12 Teacher Support Package. Drug Education resources will enhance, not replace, the teacher. (Eg. ~Life Education Program)

Professional development for the health coordinator or interested staff responsible for teaching health education.

Involvement of parents and community members in Health and Drug Education programs.

The Principal will review the Health and Drug Education budget annually.



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### **Intervention**

These intervention procedures are designed to address drug-use incidents to ensure the health and wellbeing of all students. St Munchin's Catholic School does not permit students while on school premises, at any school function, excursion or camp to:

- Smoke and / or possess tobacco products;
- Consume and / or possess alcohol;
- Deliberately inhale volatile substances (solvents);
- Possess and / or use pharmaceutical drugs for non-medical purposes;
- Possess and / or use drug-related equipment, such as syringes, bongs or pipes (except in the case of lawful medical use).

The Principal must be notified if a student needs prescribed medication while at school. (See Catholic Education Policy on Medication 5-G1)

### **Suggested Actions**

The procedures outlined below have been developed with the health and welfare of St. Munchin's School students in mind.

1. Establish and respond to the student's immediate safety. Apply, or organise to apply, first aid where necessary.
2. Accompany the student and take the substances involved immediately to the school administrative block. If in class, send a responsible student to administration to seek assistance. Refer the incident to the Principal/Deputy Principal.
3. The school administration should identify a person to be responsible for managing the incident, (to be referred to as the "Incident Manager"). The school social worker (or other appropriate person) should be advised that an incident has occurred and that it may be necessary for the counsellor to become involved as a student or family support person. The Incident Manager may elect to form a small group of people to assist with the management of the incident.
4. The Incident Manager should establish and validate the facts by interviewing relevant staff and students. Questioning should establish the substance and person involved, and where and when the incident occurred.
5. The Incident Manager should report the outcomes of the interview to the Principal and recommend appropriate courses of action.

Once it has been established that a drug-related incident has occurred, a number of actions can be taken. Actions may vary considerably depending on the details of the incident, including the substance involved, the behavioural history of the student identified as having a part in the incident and the impact on other students.



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Some suggested actions include:

### **Smoking, Alcohol, Solvents:**

The Principal / Incident Manager will notify parents/caregivers and a meeting will be arranged. Students will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action in accordance with the school community's Behaviour Management and / or Pastoral Care policies.

### **Illicit Drugs:**

Parent/caregivers will be informed immediately. The Principal will determine if the police will be called (C.E.C Policy 8-C2). In the absence of a student's parent or caregiver, the student support person or a teacher nominated by the student will always be present at any police interview that takes place on school premises. The student will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action in accordance with the school community's Behaviour Management and/or Pastoral Care policies.

### **Identification of Drug-related Problems**

St. Munchin's Catholic School is committed to the provision of a safe learning environment for all students. Identification of drug related problems can be difficult. When concerns about drug use arise in the school community, the school will cooperate with key agencies.

### **Assistance and Referral**

St. Munchin's School Community has identified the following organisation as being useful contacts:

Gosnells Police-School Liaisons Officer  
(08) 9398 0000

Alcohol and Drug Information Service  
(08) 9442 5000 Toll-free 1800 198 024

Parent Drug Information Service  
(08) 9442 5050

Community Drug Service Teams – South East Metropolitan, including Maddington and Armadale  
(08) 9262 400