

Drug-Related Incident Management Policy

Overview

This policy is consistent with Department for Education Intervention Matters: A policy statement and procedural framework for the management of suspected drug-related incidents in schools. This policy was developed by the school's Executive Leadership team in consultation with students, staff, parents and community partners, and endorsed by staff and Governing Council. To ensure continuous improvement, school procedures will be reviewed after every drug-related incident. This is in line with our school values of Inclusion, Innovation and Integrity.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, parents, staff and community members of Whyalla Secondary College

Detail

Whyalla Secondary College is committed to maintaining a safe, secure and supportive environment for its community and recognises engagement in learning as a strong protective factor against drug-related and other risks for young people. This policy links to a range of curriculum policies and procedures and positive school environment initiatives.

The College takes action to prevent drug use by students and to intervene if it occurs by taking a whole of school approach. The use, possession and/or distribution of illicit drugs and the unsanctioned use and distribution of drugs such as alcohol, tobacco vapes and prescription drugs, are not accepted.

Suspected drug-related incidents will be responded with a mix of educative, deterrent and disciplinary responses, mindful of the need to consider principles of natural justice and legal obligations and of managing risks for the school and for The Department Partnerships are made with parents, South Australian Police (SAPOL), local health and community agencies to assist our school to address drug issues.

Our school has a commitment to learner wellbeing and engagement as identified in our Wellbeing for Learning Strategic Plan. This policy also relates to the Department for Education's [First aid and infection control standards](#), WHS and curriculum policies, and our school's [Respectful Behaviour Policy](#). Drug education is taught as part of a sequential and developmentally appropriate curriculum and student resiliency and wellbeing are promoted.

The following principles of natural justice and procedural fairness will apply in the management of suspected drug-related incidents

- the right to be informed of the form of the proceedings
- the right to be represented by an advocate of choice
- the right to know what is alleged
- the right to be heard and to question evidence
- the right to impartial adjudication
- the qualified right to privacy
- the right to appeal
- and in potentially very serious incidents with legal implications, the right to legal representation.

If suspected drug-related incidents occur and drug issues arise, they will be managed and responded to in ways that:

- minimise the harm to all members of the school community
- ensure the wellbeing, educational careers and ongoing support for the students involved
- are both firm and fair.

Involvement with drugs, including illicit and unsanctioned drugs, means that school personnel have reason to believe that, on school grounds or when students are in the care of school staff:

- drugs have been or are being used
- students are, or have been, in possession of drugs or instruments used with drugs
- students are, or have been, present when drugs are being used by others.

In the event of a suspected drug-related incident:

- The safety and wellbeing of students will be considered paramount: they may need to be treated as unwell in accordance with the school's health plan and/or emergency procedures.
- Parents/caregivers will be contacted in instances of possession, use or distribution of drugs.
- Police will be informed in instances of possession, use or distribution of: illicit drugs; drug paraphernalia; and/or illegal behaviour involving legal substances; and/or when an unidentified substance is suspected of being a drug.
- The Education Director will be advised when suspected drug-related incidents involve the police and/or when an incident poses a risk to the school or to The Department. The incident will be recorded through the [Incident and Response Management System \(IRMS\)](#).
- Consequences may vary and will depend on the nature of the situation, its potential for harm and the circumstances of the individual students involved. Consequences, could involve suspension or exclusion.

Follow-up support for student wellbeing will be implemented.

Definitions

DfE - Department for Education

IRMS - Incident and Response Management System

SAPOL - South Australian Police

WHS – Work Health and Safety

IRMS – Incident and Response Management System

Tobacco - it is illegal for any person to sell or supply a cigarette to a person under 18 years. Smoking is banned in all government offices including schools.

Vape - Vapour containing nicotine and flavouring produced by a device designed for this purpose.

Alcohol - Supply or sale of alcohol to a person under 18 years in a public place, such as a school is illegal. Possession and use for young people in a school is illegal.

Prescribed medication - Legal if prescribed by a doctor. It is illegal for any person to supply. Distribute/sell prescription medication which has not been prescribed for that person. Police need to be advised.

Illegal drugs - Police must be advised

Drug paraphernalia - It is illegal to have an instrument which has been used or with intent to use. Police need to be advised.

Appendices

[First aid and infection control standards](#)

[Incident and Response Management System](#)

[Respectful Behaviour Policy](#)