Drug Education Policy

Rationale

Introduction
Drug and alcohol use among young people continues to be a significant factor of concern in Australian society and may adversely affect student’s physical and emotional health as well as reduce their chances of achieving their full potential and living a fulfilled and happy life.

“…it is therefore important to take action to enhance resilience and prevent drug experimentation and usage by our school students and to be able to respond to harm that may arise.”

Definition
St. Bernard’s College defines drugs as any substance which, when taken into the body, alters its function physically and/or psychologically. This includes all drugs of addiction or dependence including alcohol and tobacco.

Aims

Main Aims
• to minimise the harm caused by drugs by providing a supportive environment in which to develop personal and social skills that equip students to deal with drug related issues in a variety of contexts.
• to provide a set of guidelines that will inform teachers, students and their families as well as other College staff, on the approach the College will take toward drug education and general protocols for dealing with drug incidents within the school community.

Underpinning Principles
This policy aims to minimise harm and reduce harm caused by drugs.

The policy is underpinned by the following principles:

• That school should be a safe and supportive environment for all students.
• That the College develops partnerships with parents, staff, students and community agencies and provide support for all involved.
• That effective drug education requires a range of diverse approaches and must include the views, input, participation and on-going involvement of the whole school community, particularly that of students.
• The College is committed to drug education that endeavours to: minimise harm and discourages drug use.
• That the College is committed to fostering a climate of confidence and trust to encourage students to seek assistance when needed and that where a drug related incident occurs, the privacy of students will be protected.
• That the College is committed to intervention processes that are designed to address incidents in a way that serves the best interest of the student, while also conforming to legal requirements.
Drug Education Policy (continued)

Implementation

Policy Framework for Drug Education

A whole school approach to drug education and issues within the school should involve:

Parent information sessions, partnerships between school and community agencies and provision of information to students including drug education with the Curriculum.

In the event of a drug incident

- Student confidentiality will be maintained in line with College protocol for drug related incidents.
- Police involvement will be determined by the Principal. Incidents that involve trafficking will be referred to police and the students’ enrolment will be reviewed.
- The College may interview a student where drug related behaviour outside of and not associated with the school is impacting on the health and/or academic performance of the student.
- Students who are assessed as being intoxicated or drug affected whilst at school or involved in school related activities will be followed up according to the College Protocol For Drug Related Incident.

Smoking

St. Bernard’s is a smoke free environment. No person (student, teacher, parent or visitor) is permitted to smoke on the school campus or while in school uniform. Teachers or students are not permitted to smoke during school sponsored programs or activities.

Analgesics

The College will not administer analgesics to students (Panadol, aspirins, disprins etc). Students who are required to take analgesics must bring a written note signed by their parents/guardian giving them permission and bring their own supply. Students are not permitted to provide other students with analgesics.

Evaluation

- The Drug Education Policy will be reviewed every three years. The next review is due 2014.
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Attachment

College Protocol For Drug Related Incident

1. When a Staff member becomes aware of a drug related incident they check the immediate health and safety of student/s involved and implement the critical incident plan and if required, apply first aid.

2. Staff member gathers immediate information and confiscates any baggage or evidence. Then Student/s are escorted by another staff member to the Campus Director’s office and the Campus Director is alerted.*

3. Campus Director with the Year Level Co-ordinator(YLC) interviews student/s to ascertain facts and to determine student/s immediate needs. A minimum of two staff are to be present. Student is offered a choice of a support person to attend further interviews.

4. Campus Director coordinates the School’s response.

5. The Staff member who had witnessed the incident is interviewed by the Campus Director and/or YLC. A clear statement of the facts are drawn up.

6. Student/s referred to Student Counsellor.

7. Campus Director, YLC and student counsellor meet to clarify immediate situation and plan short term action.

8. Campus Director/YLC negotiates with student to determine the best approach on how to notify the student’s parents/guardians.

9. Student’s parents/ guardians are to be notified.

10. Campus Director to arrange a meeting with student and those of the following s/he decides appropriate (including a minimum of 2 staff):- support person, parents/guardian, School Counsellor, any external agency and Campus Director /YLC (in more serious cases, the Principal). This meeting is to develop a coordinated approach.

11. An appropriate management plan to be devised by School Counsellor following this meeting and in consultation with the student, his parents/guardians and Campus Director/YLC. An external counsellor/youth worker and/or appropriate community agency may be called in also.

* Duty of Care – Teachers have a positive duty of care to prevent foreseeable injury to students. If they are aware that illegal drug use is occurring on or outside the school grounds, they have a responsibility to inform the campus director and/or principal. The principal is responsible for decisions about notifying parents, regional authorities, police, counselling. Therefore teachers cannot promise confidentiality, however they are to protect the student’s privacy.