

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

PURPOSE

The Devon Meadows Primary School's community is committed to providing a safe and secure environment where students are given appropriate skills and knowledge to minimise drug related harm.

Harm minimisation involves a range of approaches to prevent and reduce drug-related harm, including prevention, early intervention, specialist treatments, supply control, safer drug use education and abstinence.

The use of drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceutical drugs, is common in our society. Our students may be exposed to drug-related issues at home, school or in the wider community.

GUIDELINES

A drug education program will exist in Devon Meadows Primary School with three main components:-

1. Curriculum
2. Welfare
3. Dealing with drug related incidents

Our Drug Education Policy is designed to provide clear guidelines for staff:

- To share responsibility for drug education between home, school and community.
- To develop integrated units of work that include a drug education focus across all year levels.
- To follow the 'harm minimisation' approach in all their dealings with drug issues to drug-related incidents.
- To develop supportive procedures for students with drug-related problems.
- To provide professional development for staff so they feel confident in implementing these procedures.

Curriculum

- Drug Education is best integrated into the current units of study in the Health and Physical Education.
- Drug Education activities should be designed to assist children to make healthy and safe choices.
- The 'Get Real' and 'Get Wise' documents can be used as a basis for planning the integrated units.

Welfare

- Drug-related student welfare is concerned with the well-being of students along a continuum from prevention through to intervention.
- Supportive procedures will be developed for students and their carers with drug-related problems.
- The Student Welfare Co-ordinator has the role of overseeing the welfare of students, and seeking support as necessary.
- The Guidance Officer will be a resource person for drug-related 'at risk' students.

- Student Welfare meetings are held on a regular basis and will be the forum for staff to monitor the progress of ‘at risk’ students.

Dealing with Drug-Related Incidents

The underlying approach to drug misuse at school is that it is more likely to be an indication of a need for help than of criminality. Therefore the case conference approach involving School Administration, Student Welfare Co-ordinator and the parents is seen as the more productive means of planning action. In all cases involving drug misuse, all staff should inform the School Administration and document details of their involvement in the incident.

The procedure for all staff to follow:

1. Stay calm
2. Ensure Safety
3. Ascertain the nature of the situation
4. Seek assistance-medical if necessary and support from a colleague
5. Determine any relevant background information
6. Involve the School Administration and Student Welfare Co-ordinator

Follow-up

7. Parents-inform of the circumstances
8. Department of Human Services – if student is deemed ‘at risk’
9. Police- if Principal considers it necessary
10. Community Agencies –Guidance Officer to counsel student
11. School Communication
12. Respond to the media only through the Principal or a DEECD representative if situation arises

EVALUATION

The Drug Education Program will be reviewed and modified on an ongoing basis. Periodically the staff and parent community will be asked to comment on the effectiveness of the Program, and this feedback will be utilised to modify the Program. The Drug Education Policy will be officially reviewed in March 2016.



COUNCIL APPROVED: _____

DATE: _____