



College council will review this policy every three years or as directed by DET

Date approved: March 2018

Date of next review: 2021

RATIONALE

Research indicates a proportion of secondary school students' use or have experimented with a range of drugs, such as alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, synthetic drugs and inhalants, pain relievers and stimulants. Schools are well placed to provide drug education to students to assist them to deal effectively with the challenges posed by drug use. This Drug Education Policy is part of Doncaster Secondary College's Individual School Drug Education Strategy and adheres to the principles and practices contained in the DET Preventing Drug Related Harm resource guide.

DEFINITION

Harm Minimisation - an approach to drug education which acknowledges that many young people will use drugs e.g. tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and pharmaceuticals at some stage in their lives and seeks to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills so that they can make informed decisions about drug use and so minimise any harmful effects associated with it.

PURPOSE

As part of Doncaster Secondary College's belief that the College should assist students in developing the necessary skills and knowledge to make informed and safe decisions about drug use, thus helping to reduce substance abuse, the College will:

- provide drug education based on a harm minimisation approach as part of the Health Education program in Years 7/8 and 10; and
- provide student welfare and educational structures which are supportive of students and which promote their physical, social and emotional well-being.

IMPLEMENTATION

The College will:

- incorporate drug education based on the principles of harm minimisation as part of the core health education programs in Years 7/8 and 10;
- provide students with opportunities to become involved in a range of extra-curricular programs designed to develop their life skills, self-esteem and resilience;
- provide staff with professional development as required in relation to their delivery of drug education within the classroom and their ability to identify 'at risk' students;
- provide funding and time release to support the professional development of staff and the acquisition of teaching resources;
- provides welfare structures within the school which are supportive of students through the provision of counselling, the identification and support of students with drug-related problems, and the articulation of behaviour expected of students and the sanctions for dealing with inappropriate behaviour;

- provides an environment which encourages positive relationships between students, their peers and teachers and in which individuals are able to approach a member of staff to seek support or advice;
- provide welfare programs which support students outside the classroom, eg: support, buddy system, anger management, bullying and social skills programs;
- publicise the College Medication Policy via the College Newsletter and College Website;
- follows DET procedures in relation to the management of drug-related risks to students;
- identifies and utilises community resources which can be implemented to support drug education and drug-related welfare in the College;
- provides opportunities for members of the school community to take part in programs to enhance parenting skills, their understanding of the role of drugs in modern society and the approach to drug education adopted by the College.