GUNDAROO PUBLIC SCHOOL

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

RATIONALE

The school recognises the dangers associated with recreational and medicinal drug misuse and abuse. The school regards drug education as a most important responsibility.

KEY POLICY STATEMENTS

- Drug education is a component of the PD,H,PE key learning area
- The goal of a preventative curriculum is to reduce the incidence of alcohol and other drug related problems among students
- The school will assist students to minimise drug related risks and will provide students with accurate information about drugs that are of concern to the community

Students need to

- Develop an awareness of drug types, actions and likely effects
- Know that drug effects are not predictable and that drug use always carries some risk
- Develop personal and social abilities to reduce drug related harm in their personal life.
- Understand the reason for the law preventing the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors and the laws that govern illegal drugs

PRINCIPAL’S RESPONSIBILITIES

The principal will:

- Develop and implement a school drug education policy
- Liaise with the drug education consultant
- Plan, develop, implement and evaluate a drug education program with the students’ welfare and well-being in mind
- Co-ordinate the professional resources available to staff
- Approve and support teacher-training in drug education
- Liaise with community agencies
- Build learning communities in which staff, students and parents work together for planned results
- Assist relevant families to gain access to support services in the community
- Refer matters of illegal drug use to the police
- Consult the school counsellor regarding intervention where required
- Ensure that all staff members exercise their duty of care
- Protect the interests of staff members
**Teachers’ Responsibilities**

Teachers will:
- Contribute to the provision of a caring, well-managed, safe environment for all students, fellow staff members and parents
- Support a drug education program in the school
- Be aware of students encountering difficulty
- Liaise with the school counsellor on relevant matters
- Deal with drug-related issues as they arise and refer relevant incidents to the principal

**Parents’ Responsibilities**

Parents will:
- be encouraged to participate in their child’s learning about drugs
- be given the opportunity for involvement in the development of the school’s drug policy and program
- be invited to attend drug education programs for parents

**Students’ Responsibilities**

Students will be encouraged to:
- adhere to the school’s discipline code in all matters and specifically, on drugs
- contribute to the provision of a caring, safe environment for fellow students, staff and parents
- provide views on school community decisions, including student welfare procedures

**References**

The guidelines for Managing Drug Related Incidents in Schools. *Drug Education: Making a Difference*

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