

Drug Education Policy

Context

Drug use is a serious issue in society which impacts on the lives of our students.

Definition

The definition of a drug for the purposes of this policy is a substance which is mind-altering or detrimental to health in its effects. This could include amphetamines, tobacco, marijuana, heroin, alcohol or other such substances, as well as prescription/over the counter drugs, which if misused, could be harmful.

Values

- Respect for self and others
- Responsibility and self-discipline
- Health and safety

Policy

Drug education at Killester aims to help students to make informed health-related decisions about drug use. Drug education is embedded in the College's curriculum and pastoral care programmes. Killester College's Drug Education Policy focuses on a harm minimisation approach.

Implications

Killester College emphasises to students the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through curricular, extra-curricular and year level activities.

Killester will cooperate with the appropriate authorities to address legal and welfare issues associated with illicit drug use. Any intervention procedure will be consistent with Brigidine documents and the Killester College Pastoral Care Policy. The parameters of the policy include all occasions when a student is at the College, travelling to and from the College or on any College camp, excursion or other College-arranged function or when the student is in the College uniform.

IMPLEMENTATION - PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Educational and Pastoral procedures

Killester's objective is the education of adolescents. Through appropriate drug education students will acquire the knowledge to make informed decisions about drug use and develop strategies to minimise any harmful effects associated with it.

In the implementation of the policy:

1. The approach acknowledges that many young people may use drugs, including tobacco and alcohol, at some stage in their lives.
2. Education about drugs will give accurate information and will focus on why drugs are used, as well as the risks involved in using them.
3. Personal drug use and associated risk-taking will be examined in a non-judgmental manner.
4. Strategies aimed at developing resilience in the face of peer pressure will be promoted.
5. Stereotypes and myths will be challenged.
6. An examination of the law and legal rights will be included.
7. Giving and receiving help will focus on skills to help oneself and to help others.
8. Community action and responses to drug use in the local and national environments will be reviewed.

Intervention Procedures

The intervention procedure is designed to address incidents of drug use in a way which is in the best interest of all parties, while also conforming to legal requirements.

Killester College does not permit students to:

1. Possess or smoke tobacco products.
2. Possess, consume or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages.
3. Deliberately inhale solvents.
4. Possess drug-related equipment such as syringes (unless prescribed for medical reasons and with the knowledge of the Killester staff), bongs and pipes.
5. Possess, use or be under the influence of drugs prohibited in accordance with the 1981 Act.
6. Be under the influence of drugs, except for medical reasons.
7. Provide or sell to any other student any prohibited drugs.
8. Collude or be present with students who are engaging in any of the above.

Specific Procedures

1. Parents/guardians are required to inform the College, in writing, of any prescription medication required during school hours.
2. If a staff member suspects or detects student drug use or possession, the staff member will inform a member of the Leadership Team.
3. Any unauthorised drug found on College property will be confiscated by the appropriate College authorities.

4. In the event of a student appearing to be under the influence of a drug or drugs, the College administration will seek medical advice where appropriate. The College will attempt to notify parents/guardians about the incident as soon as possible.
5. Any information provided or discovered will be thoroughly investigated by the relevant staff, at which time it may be deemed necessary to reveal such information to the appropriate authorities. The Victorian legislation regarding sale or possession of illegal drugs provides for prosecution of offenders.
6. Any student possessing, supplying or selling an illegal drug is committing an offence against the law. In such a case, the police will be notified.

Sanctions and Support Structures:

Students found in breach of the above will be liable to a range of sanctions depending on circumstances and whether or not previous offences have occurred. In all cases we will try to balance the interests of the students and the College community using restorative practices.

The range of responses includes:

- Consultation with parents
- Counselling in harm minimisation
- Suspension from the College and College camps/excursions
- Loss of any leadership role held
- Referral to an outside agency where appropriate
- Notification to the police
- Negotiated school transfer
- Other as deemed suitable in the circumstances.

Related documents

- [Pastoral Care Policy](#)

Last Updated: December 2014