



HEALTH & SAFETY: DRUG POLICY

RATIONALE

The policy seeks to enhance developing and maintaining a safe living and learning environment for all members of the school community. Drug use is a complex issue. Most drug and substance use in our society is legitimate, such as the use of medications. Alcohol and tobacco are the two drugs that, through misuse, cause the most harm in our society. Both are legal substances.

DEFINING DRUGS

A drug is commonly defined as any substance, which changes the normal way in which the body or mind functions.

Consideration needs to be given to the use of medication, caffeine, tobacco, alcohol, any substances that can be used as inhalants, illegal drugs such as cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy and heroin.

At all times Willunga Waldorf School is committed to:

- Being a caring and safe community in which any drug issues are dealt with in an educated, just and compassionate way.
- Fostering and promoting respect for each individual
- Educating students about health risks associated with drug and alcohol consumption
- Supporting the development of preventative skills and techniques via the curriculum, pastoral care, family and community partnerships, and providing positive and caring school environment
- Facilitating liaison between students, parents/guardians, school personnel and other interested parties on health promotion the school community.

PREVENTATIVE PROCEDURES:

Education

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in our Adult/Parent Education Programs from the time of enrolling their students in our playgroups and kindergarten– subjects include the nutrition, the significance of rest and sleep, healthy recreational activities and lifestyle and child development.
- Alternative approaches to medicine and wellbeing
- Alternative approaches to analgesic consumption for pain relief
- Issues related to drug use are integrated into the school curriculum in the middle and high school classes and encourage and assist students to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Medication and General Health Management

In support of this policy Willunga Waldorf School will:

- Provide appropriate drug education.
- Inform the students and parents/guardians of our expectations with regard to the use of drugs.
- Ensure that medication is dispensed according to the school's guidelines.
- Ensure that management plans and procedures are in place for students suffering from severe asthma, epilepsy, diabetes or other serious medical conditions.

The staff will:

- Be familiar with health management plans of students in their care suffering from severe asthma, epilepsy, diabetes or other serious medical conditions.
- Fulfill their student supervision obligations.
- Raise the awareness of the serious effects of drugs on the human body.
- Encourage students to act responsibly in relation to inappropriate and illegal drugs.

The students will:

- Ensure that they are familiar with and abide by the Willunga Waldorf School medication dispensing guidelines.
- For the safety of all students, no medication shall be carried by students, with the exception of asthma inhalers, unless there is specific negotiation.
- Maintain a respect for their own health and that of others.

The parent/caregiver will:

- Be familiar with the Willunga Waldorf School medication dispensing guideline and procedures on inappropriate, prohibited and illegal substances as stated above.
- Inform the school of a medical condition that requires monitoring or special provisions being made.

RESTRICTIONS

While students are involved in, or traveling to or from school, or school sanctioned activities, the school does not permit the:

- smoking of tobacco or other drugs
- consumption of alcoholic beverages
- inappropriate use of medications/inhalants, other chemical agents or other legal substances
- use of prohibited drugs
- possession of drug-related paraphernalia such as syringes (other than for legitimate medical purposes), or equipment designed for the use of drugs or substances
- possession, sale, supply, exchange or negotiation of the above
- attendance whilst adversely affected by drugs or
- being present when drugs are being used by others

MANAGEMENT

In the event of a suspected drug-related incident consequences may vary and will depend on:

- the nature of the situation
- its potential for harm
- the level of the student's involvement

However, in general:

- the health and wellbeing of the student/s will be considered paramount
- appropriate confidentiality will be maintained
- follow up support for student wellbeing will be implemented
- consideration will be given to minimizing any potential harm to any members of the school community
- relevant information will be communicated to the appropriate staff

Other actions could include:

- school detention
- community service
- referral for counselling
- suspension
- expulsion

Instances of possession, use of, or distribution of illicit substances, or the illegal distribution of unsanctioned drugs

- If any student breaches this policy in relation to inappropriate, prohibited or illegal drugs they will be escorted to the Head of School.
- police will be informed in instances of possession, use of, or distribution of illicit substances, or the illegal distribution of unsanctioned drugs
- parents/guardians will be contacted in instances of possession, use of, or the suspected use of, or distribution of illicit and unsanctioned drugs
- any student found in possession of or involved in distribution of illegal or unsanctioned drugs will be immediately suspended for 3 days
- any student who breaches this policy twice will be expelled.

RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Policy • Child Safe Environments Policy • Behaviour Management • Work Health Safety Policy • Child Safe Curriculum Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHS&W
--	---

POLICY LOCATIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Policy Manuals – Early Childhood • Staff Induction Policy Manuals (EC and School) • School Stream Parent App • Staff Portal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Handbook • Enrolment Pack
--	---

Publication Date	2010
Responsibility	Head of School
Review Date	2015
Next Review Date	2018
Related Legislation and Regulatory Requirements	Child protection curriculum Child Safe Environments: principles of good practice UN Conventions of the Rights of the Child Children’s Protection Act 1993 (SA)
Cross sector Guidelines (SA)	This policy has been adapted (with thanks) from the AISSA Policy Development Guidelines on Drugs, 2003.
Amendments	29/10/2015 – imported from 2010 Policies 23/05/2017 - update in format only