



HEALTH & SAFETY: DRUG POLICY

RATIONALE

Developing and maintaining a safe living and learning environment for all members of the school community is the primary aim of this policy. 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 two legal drugs that, through misuse and abuse, cause the most harm in our society.

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 a positive and caring school environment
- Facilitating liaison between students, parents/guardians, school personnel and other interested parties on health promotion within 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 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.
- Fulfil their student supervision obligations.
- Raise the awareness of the serious effects of drugs on the human body.
- Educate and encourage students to act responsibly.

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 guidelines 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, chemical agents or banned 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 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 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 and suspended. A full review of the circumstances may result in immediate expulsion.
- 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.