

ST EUPHEMIA COLLEGE

K-12



**DRUGS
PROCEDURES
2014**

Drugs - Procedures

Introduction

These Procedures should be read in conjunction with the St Euphemia College Drugs Policy.

Procedures

The policy on the use, possession or distribution of drugs and related substances at St Euphemia College is one of zero tolerance.

St Euphemia College does not permit students while on School premises, at School activities, or while wearing School uniform to:

- smoke and/or possess tobacco products
- deliberately inhale volatile substances (solvents)
- possess and/or use and/or be under the influence of pharmaceutical drugs for non medical purposes
- possess and/or use drug related equipment, such as syringes, pipes etc (except in the case of lawful medical use)
- possess and/or use and/or provide and/or be under the influence of illicit drugs including performance enhancing drugs
- be under the influence of alcohol
- arrive at School under the influence of drugs
- consume and/or possess alcohol.

St Euphemia College employees, while on School premises or attending approved School activities are not to engage in any of the above activities.

St Euphemia College promotes a drug free environment for all students. This Policy and Procedures combine both a prevention and intervention approach to drug education.

Prevention

Health and drug education is taught as part of a comprehensive and compulsory health education program. Through various KLAs, primarily PDHPE, the students are provided with the factual information, values clarification and skill development appropriate to the developmental stages of the students.

The pastoral care activities provide support and guidance for students seeking or requiring assistance with health and drug related issues.

The School Counsellor provides a strictly confidential counselling service for students aimed at prevention, education and support in relation to drugs.

Professional development for all staff is provided to ensure current and relevant drug information is available.

The School Counsellor maintains a support link with appropriate agencies and provides opportunities for parents to receive drug related information or learn about and discuss drug related issues.

School use of products containing solvents must be strictly supervised by School staff and limited wherever possible.

To help develop a safe and supportive School environment, proactive factors the following need to be promoted:

- curriculum and student welfare strategies relating to drug related incidents need to strengthen protective factors
- students should try to develop at least one close relationship with a parent, teacher, relative or mentor who can provide guidance and emotional support
- membership of peer groups that actively discourage drug use, a sense of self-worth and personal responsibility
- well developed social and interpersonal skills and adequate decision making skills are strong proactive factors
- academic success and commitment to schooling.

The following risk factors may indicate threats to a safe and supportive environment:

- school failure and academic difficulties
- high rate of absenteeism and truancy
- lack of commitment to schooling
- transitions to a more impersonal, more anonymous and less protected environment.

Whole School Approach

Effective drug education requires a whole school approach and will:

- assist students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the complex issues involved in drug use
- provide the opportunity for students to practise skills such as assertive communication and refusal skills
- develop attitudes and values that promote a healthy lifestyle
- enable students to make informed decisions relating to drug use and not to be at risk of harm through ignorance.

In Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2, students have opportunities to learn:

- about medicines and the need to use them properly under the supervision of an adult
- that medicines and poisons must be stored out of the reach of children
- how to contact emergency services if there is an accident at home.

In Years 3 to 6, students have opportunities to:

- learn about legal drugs – how they affect the body and how they can be helpful and harmful
- examine the effects of tobacco on the body and ways to avoid passive smoking
- learn about the effects of alcohol on the body
- discuss both legal and illegal drugs.

In Years 7 to 10, students have opportunities to learn about:

- the physical, legal and social consequences of drug use and misuse
- influences and reasons why people choose to use or not use drugs
- the risks associated with drug use and misuse
- potentially risky situations and plan ways to reduce harm
- the influence of the media, especially strategies aimed at young people
- support agencies.

Intervention

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

The School's response to drug use has been determined after very careful consideration and aims to achieve a balance between the rights of the individual student and the welfare of the whole School community.

Intervention practices include referral and counselling and procedures for managing drug related incidents.

Responding to incidents of drug use:

- the safety and welfare of all students will be a priority
- first aid and/or emergency care will be initiated if necessary
- the incident will be reported to the Principal/Delegated Authority
- an investigation will take place to determine the facts relating to the incident
- student property (eg. school bag) may be temporarily confiscated pending an authorised search
- the police may be contacted in all instances of suspected illicit drugs.

Staff

All staff members are trained in first aid, emergency care and cardio pulmonary resuscitation, once every 1 to 3 years.