



DRUG POLICY & PROCEDURES

RATIONALE & AIMS

At Millicent High we have developed a policy, which aims to:

- contribute to the provision of a safe, caring and orderly learning environment in which the rights of students to learn and all teachers to teach are supported and protected.
- provide the development of an informed school community, aware of the use and abuse of drugs
- protect the school community by providing sanctions against all inappropriate use of drugs
- provide a harm minimisation & educative process.

As a school we accept that:

- drugs are an integral part of our society and in many cases are useful and beneficial, but they can be used in an inappropriate fashion
- it is the responsibility of staff to be alert to potential drug use in the school, to take appropriate action, and to encourage only the appropriate use of drugs
- drug education is the joint responsibility of parents, the school and other community agencies.

DEFINITIONS

The policy covers:

- the use of medication [prescribed or over the counter drugs
- the use of non illegal drugs and chemicals such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents
- the possession, use and exchanging of illegal drugs.

LIMITS TO SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY

The school accepts responsibility for the behaviour of students under the following conditions:

- on school premises in stated school hours [viz - between 8:20am and 3.45pm] and when staff are on rostered yard supervision
- at any time on school activities while away from school
- in addition, the school does have responsibility for students at other times when not directly supervised but clearly enrolled at the school eg. on the way to and from school on school buses.

MEDICATION

The policy requires that:

- when students are carrying prescribed medication to be taken during the day, the school must be notified in writing by the parent or caregiver eg. Panadol
- where a long term medical or allergic condition requiring medication exists, the parents should provide directions in writing (ie health care plan) as to the nature of the drug(s) and their appropriate use. The school will keep medication for a student providing it is clearly labelled with the student's name, home group and details of how and when it is to be administered. The onus is on the student to collect the medication, except in emergency situations eg. allergic reactions to bee stings, asthma attacks etc.

INAPPROPRIATE USE OF DRUGS

The school does not allow students:

- the use or possession of prohibited or illegal drugs
- the inappropriate use of medications
- the inappropriate use of solvents or other chemical agents
- the consumption of alcohol
- the smoking of tobacco or other drugs
- the possession of drug related items

RESPONSES TO INAPPROPRIATE OR ILLEGAL INVOLVEMENT WITH DRUGS

The following is a general summary of the school responses and the types of consequences which will be applied. They are guidelines and may vary according to circumstances.

For Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products:

- On a **FIRST offence** parents will be notified and students will do a Community Service.
- On a **SECOND offence** parents will again be notified, students will be required to read through the Quit pack and do Community Service.
- If a **THIRD offence** occurs the student will be *internally suspended and need to do an assignment on the harmful effects of smoking.*
- If a **FOURTH offence** occurs student will be **externally suspended.**

For alcohol or any other non-illegal drugs which may cause impaired judgement:

- a parent or caregiver will be called immediately and asked to remove the student from the school and **external suspension** will result.
- as part of the re-entry process a written undertaking not to further transgress will be required. Thereafter the normal processes of suspension and exclusion will apply.
- Students will undertake an Educational process involving appropriate support agencies.

For possession and use of illegal drugs:

- The matter may be reported to the police.
- **Automatic external suspension (possible exclusion)** pending advice that the students presence at school will not affect the interests and welfare of other students.
- A requirement of any re-entry will be that the Student Development Plan provide evidence of **involvement with an appropriate medical or counselling service.**

Suspicion of illegal drug use:

- Student(s) will be sent home if considered to be under the influence of illicit drugs, for the welfare of the student and of other students. This will be determined by a **Senior School Leader** and is not **determined by whether the drugs were consumed on school premises or not.**

For supplying or dealing in illegal drugs:

- The matter will be **reported to the police.**
- **Automatic external suspension.**
- Other than in exceptional circumstances proceedings for **exclusion or expulsion** will be commenced.

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT

Millicent High School

Phone (08) 87332400

Fax: (08) 87332166

Email: dl.0780.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Mt Gambier Education Office

Phone: (08) 87245300



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development