



Drugs Policy

Preamble

In accordance with the Law, it is illegal for students to possess, use, distribute and sell illegal drugs or sell and distribute prescribed drugs at Mill Park Secondary College or at any function or activity organised by the College. Mill Park Secondary College recognizes that drug use has significant impact on human health and that harm minimization and health education should be the guiding principles of this policy.

Aims

- To be consistent with the requirements of the DET and State and Federal Laws
- Promote and maintain a positive, safe and caring school environment
- Actively promote our College as aiming to be a drug-free environment
- Develop clear steps to be taken in the event of substance abuse being evident
- Establish clear rules for supervision of prescription drugs and pharmaceuticals

Implementation

Illegal Drugs

- Drug education and harm minimisation will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum 7 – 10.
- Possession and/or the use of an illegal drug is **not tolerated** under any circumstances.
- Any student found in **possession, using or supplying** illegal drugs, in any school environment, will be suspended immediately. Parents/carers will be notified in order to begin a consultation process. Referral to an outside agency will occur. Victoria Police will be notified, and the student may be expelled.
- Teachers have a duty of care to pass on information to the Student Engagement Team and/or Principal if they have knowledge about illicit drug use by students or members of a student's family irrespective of;
 - Whether the use is;
 - confirmed, suspected or likely to occur
 - occurs on or outside school grounds
 - The drug is used
- Where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion of drug use or possession, a Principal Class Officer or Student Manager may, in the presence of the student and another teacher, search property such as a bag or a locker (which is deemed to be the school's property) and can confiscate any substance/s that is deemed to be suspicious such as cigarettes, illegal drugs or alcohol. This should be done in accordance with DET Searching for and Seizing Harmful Items Guidelines.
 - If a principal has reasonable suspicion that a harmful item exists, the principal has the power to search for and seize such an item under sections 5.8A.3 and 5.8A.4 of the Act.
 - When determining whether reasonable suspicion that a harmful item exists and as such whether a search for a harmful item should be carried out, the following factors should also be considered:
 - a. the likelihood that a search will uncover a harmful item
 - b. whether it is likely that the harmful item will be used by a student
 - c. the source and veracity of information regarding the presence of a harmful item.
- If a student seeks to obstruct a search, the principal may:
 - a. if the principal believes that there is an immediate threat to the safety, security or wellbeing of a student or staff member, contact Victoria Police
 - b. if the principal believes that there is not an immediate threat to the safety, security or wellbeing of a student or staff member, contact the parent/guardian of the student and alert them to the circumstances and require the item not to be brought to school in the future.
- A Principal is not permitted to **physically touch or pat down** a student **to search for a harmful item** but may ask a student to turn out his or her pockets, open any bag, locker or other item, and to disclose whether or not a student is in possession of a harmful item. A student who does not comply with a direction to open a bag or locker or to turn out his or her pockets will be subject to school disciplinary procedures. If the principal believes the student is concealing a harmful item under his or her clothing, the Principal should use his or her discretion as to whether to call Victoria Police.
- In the case of a substance being detected, the parent/caregiver and Victoria Police will be contacted. The possession and/or use of illegal drugs by a student will be dealt with in accordance with the Specific Responses listed below.



- In the instance of a student or students being suspected of using a drug or being drug affected, the *Responding to Drug Related Incidents* procedural document will be followed.

SPECIFIC RESPONSES

Inhalants/solvents:

Students found using solvents or inhalants, in possession of solvents or inhalants or supplying solvents or inhalants to other students anywhere in the College environment will be liable to a range of consequences dependent on the circumstances and whether or not previous offences have been recorded.

First incident:

- An incident report will be recorded and Parents/Guardian will be notified via phone call and formal letter.
- Being sent home from school/ school camps/excursions
- Suspension from school
- Referral to Student Welfare Coordinator for counselling strategies in harm minimisation

Continued Offences:

- Incident report/s recorded
- Further suspensions
- Parent/guardian meeting
- Possible withdrawal from extra-curricular activities such as camps, excursions, sporting teams etc.
- Referral to outside agency
- Possible expulsion

Use of Medications

- 'Medication' includes all prescribed drugs and all legal non-prescribed drugs such as paracetamol etc.
- Students who are required to use occasional medication at school must have a written request from their parents/guardians.
- Medication used on a long term basis should be recorded by the parent/guardians on the School Medical Form held by the First Aid Officers.
- Where parents request that students administer their own medication, the note should be directed to the Home Group/Pastoral Teacher or First Aid Officer.
- Students who require the use of Ventolin should carry it with them. Ventolin is readily accessible through the First Aid Room and authorised staff if personal supply is not accessible.
- Prescribed medications brought to school for administration during the day must either be locked away in the First Aid area or with the First Aid Officer. Security is paramount.
- The exchange of medication between students is strictly forbidden. Medication should only be used by the person for whom it was prescribed.
- Medication should only be taken for the purpose for which it was intended.
- The dosage should be strictly adhered to. Over medicating could have serious and potentially fatal implications.

Confidentiality

Staff members will endeavour to maintain confidentiality of all parties involved in drug-related situations.

- [Responding to Drug Related Incidents](#)
 - [Student Engagement and Well Being Policy](#)
 - [Student Engagement and Well Being Guidelines](#)
 - [Student Behaviour Management Policy](#)
 - [Alcohol Policy](#)
 - [Smoke-free Policy](#)
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External Links

Drugs and Schools: Legal Issues - A Guide for Principals
http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/stratman/Policy/schoolgov/druged/drugs_and_schools_legal_issues_2009.pdf
School Policy and Advisory Guide
[Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items school policy](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/druguse.aspx)
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/druguse.aspx>
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/drugeducation.aspx>

Ratified Date

This Policy was ratified by School Council on 30 October 2018

Review Date

This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's three year review cycle



Responding to drug related incidents

This following identifies immediate and subsequent responses to drug related incidents when student/s are suspected of possessing, distributing or using a drug, including being drug affected.

