

## PREAMBLE

Mill Park Secondary College has a responsibility to fully inform our students, staff and whole school community about the effects of alcohol.

## AIMS

- Alcohol education forms part of our school's Drug Education Program and ensures that all students are made aware of the dangers regarding the effects of alcohol on the body and mind.
- To ensure that a fair and reasonable process for responding to incidents involving alcohol is developed, understood and consistently followed.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Alcohol education activities will be included as part of our school's Drug Education program.
- Where appropriate, our school will access agencies within our local community with expertise in the field of alcohol education to participate in our programs, e.g. local police, community health services, drug & alcohol counsellors.
- Any lesson content related to alcohol will be delivered within the context of a harm minimisation approach to drug education.
- Clear protocols will be followed for addressing the issue of a student, staff member or community member attending school or a school function under the influence of alcohol.
- Students are not permitted to bring or consume alcohol on school grounds, travelling to or from school or school camps/excursions under any circumstances.
- Where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion of alcohol use or possession, a Principal Class officer or designated officer 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 seize any alcohol as per DET 'Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items Guidelines'. Students can be instructed to open pockets or bags for inspection and failure to comply may involve the school contacting Victoria Police.
- If a student is suspected of having consumed alcohol or is intoxicated, a parent/carer will be notified immediately and the student will be sent home. See specific responses below.
- Staff will be aware that consumption of alcohol by them during camps or excursions is inconsistent with the standards of professional conduct and therefore is not permitted.

## SPECIFIC RESPONSES

- Students found drinking, in possession of alcohol, buying alcohol from other students or supplying alcohol to other students or as a bystander in their company, will be liable to a range of consequences dependent on the circumstances and whether or not previous offences have been recorded, at the discretion of the Principal.

### First Incident

- Incident report recorded
- Parent/carer notified via phone call and formal letter
- Student sent home from any external activity at parent/carer expense
- Suspension from school
- Referral to Student Welfare Coordinator for counselling strategies in harm minimisation

### Further Incidents

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

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- Student Behaviour Management Policy
- Drug Education Policy
- **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](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/stratman/Policy/schoolgov/druged/drugs_and_schools_legal_issues_2009.pdf)
- **School Policy and Advisory Guide**
  - <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/property.aspx> *Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items*
  - <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/alcohol.aspx>
  - <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/property.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 14 September 2021.

## REVIEW DATE

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