

## 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 recognises that drug use has a significant impact on human health and that education, harm minimisation and support should be the guiding principles of this policy. The policy may be applied to the use of substances not yet covered by legal frameworks, but prohibited at school.

## AIMS

- Ensure that all students are made aware of the dangers regarding the effects from the use of illegal drugs.
- Consistently apply a fair and reasonable process for responding to incidents involving illegal drugs.
- Support students who are involved in incidents involving drug use
- Establish clear rules for supervision of prescription drugs and pharmaceuticals

## IMPLEMENTATION

### ILLEGAL DRUGS

- Drug education and harm minimisation is covered by the Victorian Curriculum, during Pastoral and Health and Physical Education
- 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 used.
- Where any concern about potential drug use is raised the school would be proactive in contacting families.
- Where there are reasonable grounds of suspected 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 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.
  - 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.
- In the case of a substance being detected, the parent/carer 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 *Responding to Drug Related Incidents* procedural document.
- 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.

### 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 parent/carer.
- Medication used on a long-term basis should be recorded by the parent/carer on the School Medical Form held by the First Aid Officers.
- Where a parent/carer prefers that a student administers their own medication, a written request should be directed to the First Aid Officer.
- 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.
- Arrangements are made through the First Aid Officer for students who require an Epi-pen.
- 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.

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY AND SENSITIVITY**

- Staff members will endeavour to maintain confidentiality of all parties involved in drug-related situations. Staff will manage incidents without judgement and in a manner which prevents stigmatisation of individuals or groups.

#### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- [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](#)
- School Policy and Advisory Guide
- [https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/weapons/policy- Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/weapons/policy-Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items)
- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/alcohol-and-other-drugs-students/policy>

#### **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.