



Drug Education Policy

RATIONALE

At St James we recognize that we live in a drug using society.

We believe that a harm minimization approach to drug use is an effective tool to educate students in their responsible use of drugs and that young people should be exposed to making choices about drug use. We recognise that some drugs have benefits and others can be dangerous. Our focus as educators is Primary Prevention of drug abuse and acknowledges that parents hold the greatest influence in educating students about drugs. We accept that knowledge alone is not enough in this area and are committed to it being part of our Wellbeing Program.

GOALS

- To build social competence through social skills programs.
- To address social influences and development of positive peer relationships.
- To ask students to apply their knowledge about drugs to specific content.
- To investigate what factors influence choices about drug use
- To build self-esteem.
- To engage in a whole school approach to positive school and classroom climate, such as healthy risk taking.

- To engage students in problem solving and critical thinking, relating learning to real life situations.
- To provide a supportive, nurturing school environment and relationships as part of the school drug education program.

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- The Student Wellbeing Team is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Drug Education Program.
 - A minimum of ten hours of Drug Education is to be taught in each class, every year.
 - Units on suicide, self-harm or chomping are NOT to be taught. If these areas are of a concern, see the Principal.
 - If students are 'untouched' by illicit drugs, then it is deemed inappropriate content for primary aged students.
 - The Student Wellbeing Team consists of the Student Wellbeing leader, who is also a member of the School Improvement Team, and staff representatives.
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- The program will be delivered according to the *Twelve Principles of Drug Education*:
 1. Drug education is based on sound theory and current research and uses evaluation to inform decisions.
 2. Drug education is embedded within a comprehensive whole school approach to promote health and wellbeing.
 3. Outcomes are localized and contribute to the overall goal of minimizing drug-related harm.

4. A safe, supportive school environment is promoted as part of seeking to prevent or reduce drug-related harm.
5. Collaborative relationships between staff, families and the broader community in planning and implementing of drug education are promoted.
6. Programs are designed to address local needs, values and priorities.
7. We acknowledge that a range of risk and protective factors impact on health and education outcomes, which influence choices made about drug use.
8. We use policy and a consistent practice to inform and manage responses to drug-related incidents and risks.
9. We recognize the need to address drug related issues within a broader health context relevant to students' concerns and stages of development.
10. We recognize that programs are best delivered by teachers at the school and outside agencies can support this.
11. We understand that student-centered, interactive strategies develop students' knowledge, skills, attitudes and values.
12. We believe that accurate information and meaningful learning activities can dispel myths about drug use and focus on real life contexts and challenges.

Content Guidelines:

TOPICS, ISSUES and ACTIVITIES that can be used through integrating from the Victorian Curriculum.

LEVEL : FOUNDATION (Prep)

- Peer Pressure
- Risky Behaviours
- Positive Relationships
- Decision making / Problem solving
- Body Systems
- Dealing with emergencies
- Values
- Healthy Choices
- Safe use of Medicines
- Staying Safe around Syringes.

LEVEL: 1- 2 (Years 1 &2)

- Smoking
- Peer Pressure
- Risky Behaviours
- Positive Relationships
- Decision making / Problem solving.
- Dealing with Emergencies
- Values
- Healthy Choices
- Safe use of Medicines
- Staying Safe around Syringes.

LEVEL: 3 - 4 (Years 3 & 4)

- Caffeine
- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Pain killers
- Peer Pressure
- Risky Behaviours
- Physical Effects
- Social Effects

- Emotional Effects
- Positive Relationships
- Decision making / Problem solving
- Drugs in the Media/ Influence of the Media
- Body Systems
- Central Nervous System
- Legal status of Drugs.
- Classifying Drugs
- Dealing with Emergencies
- Values
- Healthy Choices
- Safe use of Medicine.

LEVEL: 5-6 (Years 5 & 6)

- Caffeine
- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Cannabis
- Painkillers
- Basic illicit drug information
- Safety
- Peer Pressure
- Risky Behaviours
- Dealing with Drug Related Issues
- Physical Effects
- Social Effects
- Emotional Effects
- Positive Relationships
- Stereotypes

EVALUATION

This policy was reviewed in 2016 and will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year School Improvement Plan by staff and Education Board.

