



# KILLESTER COLLEGE

## DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

### CONTEXT

Drug use is an issue in society which impacts on the lives of our students.

### Definition

The definition of a drug for the purposes of this policy is a substance which is mind-altering or detrimental to health in its effects. This could include amphetamines, tobacco, marijuana, heroin, alcohol or other such substances, as well as prescription/over the counter drugs, which if misused, could be harmful.

### VALUES

1. A positive view of the human person
2. To empower students with the knowledge to be responsible, self-disciplined and adaptable

### POLICY

Drug education at Killester aims to help students to make informed health-related decisions about drug use. Drug education is embedded in the school's curriculum and pastoral care programmes. Killester College's Drug Education Policy focuses on a harm minimization approach.

### IMPLICATIONS

Killester College emphasizes to students the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through curricular, extra-curricular and year level activities.

Killester will cooperate with the appropriate authorities to address legal and welfare issues associated with illicit drug use. Any intervention procedure will be consistent with Brigidine documents and the Killester Pastoral Care Policy. The parameters of the policy include all occasions when a student is at school, travelling to and from school or any college camp, excursion or other school-arranged function or when the student is in school uniform.

## **IMPLEMENTATION - PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Educational and Pastoral procedures:**

Killester's major objective is the education of adolescents, so it is through the school curriculum that many drug-related issues will be addressed, in particular:

1. Facts about drugs which give accurate information and focus on why drugs are used as well as the risks involved in using them.
2. Personal drug use in which risk-taking is examined in a non-judgmental manner. The approach acknowledges that many young people will use drugs, including tobacco and alcohol, at some stage in their lives. However, through appropriate drug education, they will acquire the knowledge to make informed decisions about drug use and develop strategies to minimise any harmful effects associated with it.
3. Stereotypes and myths are challenged.
4. An examination of the law and legal rights.
5. Giving and receiving help - focusing on skills to help oneself and to help others.
6. Community action - exploring responses to drug use in the local and national environments.
7. To develop strategies aimed at developing resilience in the face of peer pressure.

### **Intervention Procedures:**

The intervention procedure is designed to address incidents of drug use in a way which is in the best interest of all parties, while also conforming to legal requirements.

Killester College does not permit students to:

1. Possess or smoke tobacco products.
2. Possess or consume or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages.
3. Deliberately inhale solvents.
4. Possess drug-related equipment such as syringes (unless prescribed for medical reasons and with the knowledge of the Killester staff), bong and pipes.
5. Possess, use or be under the influence of drugs prohibited in accordance with the 1981 Act.
6. To be under the influence of drugs, except for medical reasons.

7. To provide or sell to any other student any prohibited drugs.
8. To collude or be present with students who are engaging in any of the above.

### **Specific Procedures:**

1. Parents/guardians are required to inform the school, in writing, of any prescription medication required during school hours.
2. If a staff member suspects or detects student drug use or possession, the staff member will inform a member of the Leadership Team.
3. Any unauthorised drug found on school property will be confiscated by the appropriate school authorities.
4. In the event of a student appearing to be under the influence of a drug or drugs, the school administration will seek medical advice where appropriate. The school will attempt to notify parents/guardians about the incident as soon as possible.
5. Any information provided or discovered will be thoroughly investigated by the relevant staff at which time it may be deemed necessary to reveal such information to the appropriate authorities. The Victorian legislation regarding sale or possession of illegal drugs provides for prosecution of offenders.
6. Any student possessing, supplying or selling an illegal drug is committing an offence against the law. In such a case, the police will be notified.

### **Sanctions and Support Structures:**

Students found in breach of the above will be liable to a range of sanctions depending on circumstances and whether or not previous offences have occurred. In all cases we will try to balance the interests of the students and the school community using restorative practices.

The range of responses includes:

- \* Consultation with parents
- \* Counselling in harm minimisation
- \* Suspension from school and school camps/excursions
- \* Loss of any leadership role held
- \* Referral to an outside agency where appropriate
- \* Notification to the police
- \* Negotiated School transfer
- \* Other as deemed suitable in the circumstances

**Ratified by Stewardship Council** on November 16th, 2009

**Review:** 2012