

Drug Education Policy

Rationale

Altona Green Primary School aims to build a positive future for our students by developing lifelong learners who value themselves and others. The school places an emphasis on its commitment to the values of Kindness, Encouragement, Fairness, Acceptance and Respect.

Altona Green Primary School believes all students have the right to feel safe and supported in their school community. Issues such as alcohol and other drug use and misuse will impact on the school and community.

Drug education is a shared responsibility between home, school and the community. Parent participation is welcomed in the formation of policy documents and curriculum development.

This school accepts the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to drug education across the whole school community. This school acknowledges that it is only one part of a community response to drug issues.

Our Drug Education Policy is based on the principles of harm minimisation which aims to prevent or minimise the adverse effects of drug use for the individual and the community. The harm minimisation approach towards drug education aims to foster the development of resilience in our students.

The school discourages all drug use that is detrimental to the health and well-being of students and that is not authorised by parents or medical authorities.

The policy applies to all students under the school's jurisdiction which is defined as the school premises, school camps, excursions and activities associated with the school, such as camp nights or any other activity where school staff assume responsibility. It also refers to students on their way to and from school, or when they are in school uniform and are representing the image of the school.

Aims

It is a major role of the school to educate children about drug issues. The aim is to ensure students are informed about drugs and related issues; that they understand the possible consequences of drug use; and that they are informed about safety and first-aid strategies in order to reduce the possibility of harm to themselves and to others in the community.

Altona Green Primary School aims to develop and maintain a health-promoting environment. The possession, use, selling and distribution of substances such as tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, inappropriately used prescription drugs and all illicit drugs at school constitute a health and safety risk and breach of school rules and the law.

Extensive efforts will be made to maintain appropriate educational pathways for students involved in drug-related issues.

Implementation Guidelines:

Primary Prevention Strategies

Altona Green Primary School aims to enhance the emotional, physical and social health of all students. Wherever possible the school will inform and support families and link to student support services officers and or community service providers for counselling and treatment.

The school has an integrated health, well being and physical education curriculum. Students are encouraged to develop skills in decision making, to value themselves and others, to be self-reliant, to take responsibility for their actions, to have a healthy lifestyle, to be safe and to understand the implications of drug use and misuse. We will provide a range of initiatives and activities to promote and develop protective factors and reduce risk factors thus promoting health practices.

This will include;

- Implementation and review of the Altona Green Primary School Engagement Policy
- The whole school approach to Health Education, such as the 'Go For You Life' program.
- Provision of accurate and meaningful curricula about drugs, including the biannual 'Life Education Van'

- Implementation of programs to reduce bullying and develop resilience such as the whole school program 'Friendly Kids and Families'
- Providing of appropriate Professional Development for staff.

Early Intervention Strategies

This school believes all staff are responsible for identifying, monitoring and reporting to the Principal the behaviour of a student who is believed to be at risk from their own or others' drug use. Schools will support staff with professional development specifically in the areas of mandatory reporting, resilience and at risk behaviours. The school will encourage, where possible, the involvement of parents in welfare issues concerning their children.

Intervention Strategies

This school, through the principal will develop a case management plan for students who engage in problematic or unlawful drug related behaviour. Such a plan will have as its first concern the safety of staff and students and take account of the health issues for that student, the drug(s) involved, the circumstances and nature of the incident, the student(s) involved and the likely effects of any consequences. Referral practices will be clarified and communicated where necessary to staff by the Principal. Different personnel, where appropriate, may assist in carrying out the welfare and discipline responsibilities.

Evaluation

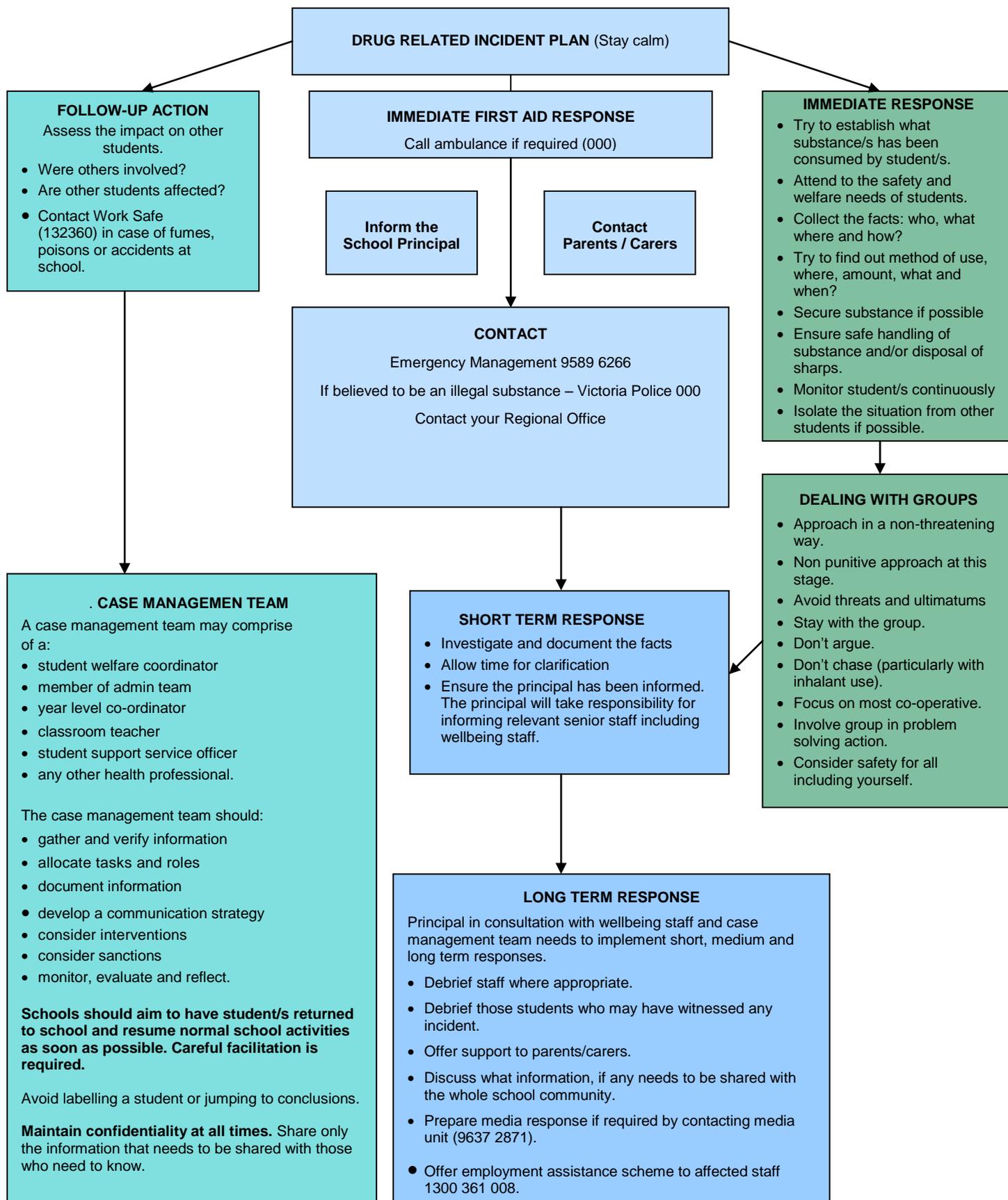
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school review cycle or as required.

Links to related policies.

This policy should be read in conjunction with related policies including;

- The Student Engagement Policy
- Medications Policy
- Student Attendance Guidelines
- Critical Incident Policy
- Staff Welfare Policy
- Ambulance Policy
- Safe Handling Guidelines
- Emergency Management Policy and guidelines.
- Occupational Health and Safety guidelines
- ISDes Action Plan.

Key resources for drug education include Primary Steps, Get Real, Get Wise.



The following resources provide additional frameworks for schools and support systems for students in relation to drug issues in schools.

- [Keeping in Touch](#): An intervention framework for school staff – Page 5. Developing a procedural framework – Page 7.
- [Retention and Reintegration](#): Cycle of intervention – Page 5. Summary of a young person involved in a drug-related incident - Page 8. Reintegration of students after relapse – Page 11.
- [Preventing drug-related harm – A guide for the Student Welfare Coordinator](#). This resource provides a set of evidence-based guidelines and tools to assist schools and their communities to address truancy and the associated risk of problematic substance use.