
LEGAL & ILLEGAL DRUG USE AND SMOKING BY STUDENTS POLICY

1.0 Introduction

Hillbrook is committed to maintaining a safe and supportive school environment for all members.

2.0 Why are drugs an issue?

In our society people use drugs for a number of reasons. Since adolescence can be a period of experimentation and risk taking it is important that our young people are made aware of drug use issues and how they may impact on them and the community. Friendship groups formed at school can also be a strong socialising factor when young people make decisions about drug use. However, we need to keep in mind the fact that drug use is one of many factors that influence the health and personal development of our young people.

3.0 What is our approach?

We believe the School plays an important role in helping our young people develop health enhancing attitudes, behaviours and values that are needed to live a healthy and fulfilling life. The School's curriculum addresses many issues related to legal and illegal drugs as students move through the various year levels.

The following issues are addressed:

- Providing accurate and relevant information about drugs and drug use
- Developing self-esteem, resilience and assertiveness
- Problem-solving and decision making skills
- Harm minimisation
- Giving and receiving help
- Values clarification
- Personal risk assessment and management skills

4.0 What are our expectations?

The School does not permit any student, while on the grounds, engaged in any School related activity, or travelling to or from a School related activity to:

- Possess, supply, use or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs
- Deliberately inhale or misuse solvents or other chemicals
- Misuse prescribed or non-prescribed drugs
- Possess drug related equipment unless prescribed for medical conditions and advised to staff

5.0 What will happen if these expectations are breached?

Depending on the seriousness of the incident, students can expect some or all of the following consequences to apply:

- Loss of privileges
- Community service
- Detention
- Suspension
- Exclusion
- Referral to an outside agency, including Police.

Hillbrook must be a drug-free school. No illegal drugs are allowed on school grounds, or any school related activity, including travelling to and from school. Any student involved with illegal drugs can expect to be permanently excluded from the School community.

6.0 What can I do?

Hillbrook is committed to maintaining a safe and supportive school environment. If you are concerned for others or are feeling uncomfortable about a situation, or need to talk to someone you trust then you may approach:

- Your parents
- A friend
- A teacher
- The Chaplain
- The Counsellor
- A member of the School Leadership Team

7.0 Supporting Policies

This policy is supported by the following School policies;

- Some Rules of the Road
- Medication to be given to Students On and Off Campus