

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 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 may have a lasting influence on 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 have kept staff informed

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

First Occasion

The issues of trust and health will be discussed, and students will be asked to show that they understand the school's attitude to trust and the health risks of their behaviours. The school will offer advice and support as well as encourage the student to identify a school-based support person. The student will be required to inform their parents who will call or write to the school acknowledging this. Student will give four hours' service within the school in their own time, as a consequence of this breach of trust.

Second Occasion

[As per the First Occasion] however in this instance the school will contact the parents, the student will be withdrawn [suspended] from school for two day. On return, the student and parents will meet with the SLT to discuss the consequences of a third breaking of trust.

Third Occasion

[As per above] however the student will be withdrawn [suspended] from school for 5 school days to consider the issue of trust as it relates to their future at the school.

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 immediate and permanent exclusion 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 could approach:

- Your parents
- A friend

- A teacher
- Year Coordinator
- 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