
LEGAL & ILLEGAL DRUG USE INCLUDING SMOKING AND VAPING (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.

Our response to behaviours that breach Hillbrooks' high expectations and trust, as well as, applicable legislative Acts and Regulations, revolves around 3 Focus Areas: Focusing on Ourselves; Tuning into Other People; and Understanding the Larger World. This is expressed as 'looking after ourselves'; 'focusing on the way we care for others'; and 'understanding the larger context and systems'.

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, vaping, alcohol or any illicit drugs
- Deliberately inhale or misuse solvents or other chemicals
- Misuse or sell any prescribed or non-prescribed drugs
- Possess drug related equipment unless prescribed for medical conditions and have kept staff informed

5.0 What are the consequences of breaching these expectations?

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 and a conversation will occur with a member of the Wellbeing Team or a member of the School Leadership Team.

As a consequence of this breach of trust and in the instance of smoking [tobacco or e-cigarettes/vaping] and alcohol use, students will be withdrawn [suspended] from school for two days, given two hours of school based community service, after school hours, and be required to research the legal and health implications of their decisions.

On return, the student and parents will meet with a member of the School Leadership Team to reflect on their re-entry to our community and to discuss the consequences of an additional breaking of trust.

Second Occasion

As a consequence of a second breach of trust, and in the instance of smoking [tobacco or e-cigarettes] and alcohol use, students will be withdrawn [suspended] from school for five school days and given four hours of school based community service, after school hours, to consider the issue of trust as it relates to their future at the School.

On return, the student and parents will meet with a member of the School Leadership Team to discuss their continuing place as a member of the School community.

In Other Instances

Hillbrook must be a drug-free school. No illicit drugs are allowed on school grounds, or any school related activity, including traveling to and from school.

Any student supplying or selling tobacco or e-cigarettes/vaping or alcohol, will be withdrawn [suspended] from school for five school days and given four hours of school based community service, after school hours, and be required to research the legal and health implications of their decisions and to consider the issue of trust as it relates to their future at the School. On return, the student and parents will meet with a member of the School Leadership Team to reflect on their re-entry to our community and to discuss the consequences of an additional breaking of trust.

Any student involved with illicit drugs or illegal activities, e.g. the use of or the sale or distribution of illicit drugs and/or prescription drugs, can expect immediate and permanent exclusion from the School community, and referral to an outside agency, including the police.

6.0 What can I do?

Hillbrook is committed to maintaining a safe and supportive school environment. If you are concerned for the wellbeing of 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
- Your Home Teacher
- Year Coordinator
- The Head of Student Wellbeing
- The Chaplain
- The Counsellor
- A member of the School Leadership Team
- Kids Helpline (Phone: 1800 55 1800 | <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>)
- Headspace Indooroopilly (Phone: 07 3157 1555 | <https://headspace.org.au/>)
- Lifeline (Phone: 13 11 14 | <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>)

7.0 Supporting Policies

This policy is supported by the following School policies;

- Some Rules of the Road
- Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities