

Preamble

All young people are likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community and be increasingly exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. The majority of young people of school-age have never used an illegal drug. Most will, at some stage, be occasional users of drugs for medicinal purposes and many will try tobacco or alcohol. Some will continue to use on a regular basis. There are complex motivations behind a young person's decision to first experiment with alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs however, very few of those who experiment with illegal drugs will go on to become problem drug users

Policy Statement

This policy aims to create a culture at Upwey High School that ensures all students feel safe from harm and supported to achieve their full potential. A clear policy has been developed to promote drug education and manage drug related incidents which will contribute to improved health outcomes for students.

Guidelines

- 1.1 The possession, use, distribution or selling of illicit drugs on school premises at any functions or activities organised by Upwey High School (by students, parents, teachers or visitors) is prohibited.
- 1.2 A curriculum based on a harm minimisation approach to drug education and in accordance with Department of Education and Training (DET) guidelines will be developed and implemented

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- 2.1.1 Where a member of the school community becomes aware of illicit drug, and/or smoking and/or the use of alcohol by any member of the school community on the school's premises they have a 'duty of care' to report it to a staff member and/or a member of the Principal Team.
- 2.1.2 Where teaching or non-teaching staff become aware that illicit drug and/or smoking and/or the use of alcohol use by students is occurring or is likely to take place, there is a clear 'duty of care' to report the matter to a member of the Principal Team.
- 2.2.1 All drug related curricula will reflect the key elements of effective drug education.
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/drugeducation.aspx>
- 2.2.2 The development of the Drug Education Program will be the responsibility of the Curriculum Committee and the appropriate Domain Leaders in consultation with the Student Wellbeing Team.
- 2.2.3 The Drug Education Program will be implemented in Years 7 – 10 Health Education classes in line with Victorian Curriculum. Health and Drug Education at Upwey High School is taught as part of a comprehensive and compulsory Health Education program. The outcomes of this include:
 - The development of the whole person. It assists students to develop positive attitudes towards personal health, safe behaviours and physical activity and seeks to contribute to the individual's emotional, mental, physical and social well-being.
 - The development of a wide range of personal and interpersonal communication skills and experience that enable students to work effectively as individuals and as team members in all aspects of life.
 - Helping students make informed decisions about their lifestyle, based on positive choices, which also take into account the values of the family, culture and religion to which they may belong.

Guidelines

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1.3	A procedure for all staff to deal with School-based drug related incidents will be provided. A drug can be defined as a licit or illicit substance that changes the way the mind or body functions.	2.2.4	A range of strategies and approaches in Upwey High School's Health classes will be incorporated to help students acquire the knowledge and skills they need to make informed decisions about drug use which may minimise any harmful effects associated with it.
1.4	Consequences for drug related incidents based on a harm minimisation approach and Upwey High School's Student Engagement Policy will be implemented	2.3	All staff will be provided with guidelines for responding to drug related incidents at Upwey High School.
1.5	An illicit-drugs-and-alcohol free environment within the school and at school sponsored events will be enforced.	2.4	A coordinated response for drug related issues based on the DET guidelines and Upwey High School's Policies will be provided. Responses to drug related incidents will be in line with harm minimisation guidelines and adopt a case management model that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sanctions/consequences• support and referral• re-joining the school community.
1.6	Students who need to use prescribed drugs for health reasons must be supervised by school personnel and follow medical guidelines.	2.5.	The use of illicit drugs and alcohol is not permitted in any area of the school's property, nor at any Upwey High School related activity or function. Upwey High School Council approval must be sought for any variation with regards to the consumption of alcohol.
1.7	A smoke free environment within the school and at school sponsored events will be enforced.	2.6	All medication drugs are to be dispensed via the school's First Aid trained staff or a teacher in charge of a school excursion/tour/camp as set out in the Upwey High School Medications Policy.
		2.7.1	The smoke free environment will be publicised to all users of Upwey High School facilities through signage and notification on publicity as set out in the Upwey High School Smoke Free School Policy. School approval must be sought for any variations.

Links

- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/druguse.aspx>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/drugprevention.aspx>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/alcohol.aspx>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/smokingban.aspx>

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's 3 year cycle or as required by developments in relevant legislation.

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