



Caritas College
Port Augusta

Drug Education Policy

Caritas College School Board

Drug Education

The Caritas College Drug Education Policy supports our school motto 'In all things love' reflecting our community's efforts to assure the right of every member to a safe environment and the responsibility of every person to promote safe practices.

Rationale for a Drug Education Policy

At Caritas College the use, possession, and/or distribution of illicit drugs and the unsanctioned use, possession and/or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, prescription and over the counter drugs are not accepted.

These expectations apply while the student is at school, under the care of boarding house supervisors, or at any school related activities where a student is representative of Caritas College.

Caritas College is committed to a wholistic education where student learning and wellbeing are integral to the school vision. The dignity and worth of each person is valued.

"You need to be able to walk with a student if you hope for a change in behaviour." (*Keeping Them Connected*, p 29). Caritas College believes education has an important role in the health and wellbeing and development of young people. Caritas College uses a balanced approach to drug education. A proactive, educative approach is promoted. This balanced approach to drug education therefore requires educative, pastoral care, legal and discipline responses to individual sets of circumstances.

Harm minimization involves a range of approaches to prevent and to reduce drug related harm, including prevention, early intervention, and incident management.

Role of the School Board is to:

- Monitor the review and implementation of the Drug Education Policy.
- Promote parent and community partnerships that support the Drug Education Policy.

Role of the Principal is to:

- Monitor the implementation of the Drug Education Policy.
- Ensure learning programs are provided to support students' learning regarding drug education as part of the SACSA Framework
- Promote collaborative relationships between students, staff, families and the broader community in the planning and implementation of school drug education.
- Respond to all suspected drug-related incidents with the health and wellbeing of students as the prime concern and utilizing principles of natural justice and procedural fairness.

Role of Parents is to:

- Be informed of current health and drug education information.
- Participate in parent/community information sessions regarding harm minimization strategies and initiatives.
- Understand the Caritas College Drug Education Policy and its underlying principle of harm minimization.
- Support students in adhering to the policy.
- Carry out a duty of care to inform the Principal if there is suspicion of drug use, possession or distribution.
- Work collaboratively with the school to support the provision of a safe environment.

Role of staff members is to:

- Implement the Drug Education Policy in all learning situations to complement and reinforce learning.
- Provide drug education as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Impart a duty of care in all learning activities.
- Foster an environment which promotes a pastoral care response to students through learning programs.
- Carry out a duty of care to inform the Principal if there is suspicion of drug use, possession or distribution.

Role of students is to:

- Adhere to the Caritas College Drug Education Policy at all times.
- Participate in learning experiences provided by the school.
- Ensure actions always promote a safe school environment.
- Notify teachers if there is suspicion of drug use, possession or distribution.

Procedural Framework for implementing the Drug Education Policy

The Board, Principal, staff, parents or students follow the procedures for managing suspected drug-related incidents outlined in 'Intervention Matters', revised 2011.

Links

This Drug Education Policy has links to a number of other policies and documents:

Caritas College Development of Personal Responsibilities Policy and procedures
Caritas College Critical Incident Management procedures
Caritas College Health Care and Medication Policy
Catholic Education SA (CESA) and Caritas College OHSW policies and procedures
South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) and Caritas
South Australian Curriculum and Standards Accountability (SACSA) Framework
National Safe Schools Framework
CESA Suspension and Expulsion guidelines

Implementation date: January 2008

Review date: January 2011 2012 communication team—SLWB

Definitions

Drug A drug is any substance when taken into the body, alters its function physically and/or psychologically. (World Health Organisation, 1981)

This includes:

Illicit drugs those drugs for which the production, sale, possession or use is prohibited.

Legal drugs those drugs which are sanctioned by law. They may be readily available (like caffeine and petrol); restricted by age (like tobacco and alcohol); or prescribed for some by medical practitioners (like many pharmaceuticals).

Unsanctioned drugs those drugs whose use is restricted by law, school authorities and/or school policies/guidelines. They include illicit, social and prescription drugs when misused.

Harm minimization The harm minimization approach assists schools and communities to go beyond punitive measures to drug issues and to develop integrated approaches that focus on policies and procedures to prevent and reduce drug-related harm. The harm minimization approach is endorsed by state and federal governments. It does not mean not responding to suspected drug-related incidents; it means responding well.

Natural justice the commonly accepted rules and procedures that prescribe how a person must have their case heard such that people's rights are protected

References

Intervention Matters: A policy statement and procedural framework for the management of suspected drug-related incidents in schools, 2004, The State of South Australia, Department of Education and Children's Services

Norden, Fr P., *Keeping Them Connected*, Jesuit Social Services, 2005



Caritas College
Woodforde Street
Port Augusta West SA 5700
(PO Box 204, Port Augusta SA 5700)

Telephone: (08) 8648 9700
Fax: (08) 8648 9720
Email: info@cc.catholic.edu.au
Web: www.cc.catholic.edu.au