“This is what God asks of you only this
To act justly,
To love tenderly,
And walk humbly with your God”
Micah 6:8

Drug Education Policy
MISSION STATEMENT

At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we, the parents, students and staff are committed to continuing the vision of our founders, Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. We value and endeavour to provide an education of excellence and care in a family environment, being accessible to all while upholding the Catholic tradition based on the philosophy “In Omnibus Caritas” … In all things love and kindness.

PREAMBLE

Mary MacKillop Memorial School seeks to work in partnership with parents/caregivers in the educational process of their children, based on the spirit and charism of Mary MacKillop.

An integral part of this process is providing an environment where each community member is recognized as a unique individual with rights and responsibilities.

Our Christian heritage provides the basis for our philosophy and process.

As a school community, we recognize and we acknowledge the great support and co-operation already given and which exists between staff, students and families.

GOALS

1. At Mary MacKillop Memorial School, we aim to provide an environment that is safe, supportive and nurturing to the development of the whole child.

2. We promote practices that enable children to live a healthy and fulfilling life framed within the Christian values of the school.

3. This policy seeks to contribute to developing and maintaining a safe living and learning environment for all members of the school community. The use of illicit and unsanctioned drugs inhibits this aim.

AIMS

As a result of implementing this policy the school community will:

1. Have Drug Education as a shared responsibility between home, school and community.

2. Have a Drug Education program that aims to minimise harm by providing a supportive environment in which students develop skills to deal with drug related issues in a variety of contexts.

3. Accepts that the possession, use and/or distribution of illicit or other unsanctioned drugs within our school is unacceptable.
IMPLEMENTATION

This policy is defined in the following three ways:

1. EDUCATION INITIATIVES:

   CURRICULUM
   As part of our Health Curriculum and Family Life Education we provide opportunities for students to:
   • Gain information through a knowledge, values, skills and strategies approach.
   • Develop an awareness and understanding of their spiritual, physical, emotional, social and cognitive needs.
   • Develop an awareness of what safe and supportive environments are and how we can promote their development.
   • Develop decision making skills.
   • Develop their knowledge, skills, values and attitudes about drugs, thereby supporting responsible decision making.
   • Focus on areas most applicable to their peer group.
   • Further develop their knowledge of relevant and accurate information about public health and safety messages.
   • Access pastoral support programs and care.
   • Provide opportunities for students to work with officers from SAPOL
   • At least biannually participate in the Life Education Program

   STAFF
   To support staff we:
   • Provide the opportunities for professional development.
     • Provide opportunities to access current date and best practises.
   • Build links with outside agencies.
   • Provide appropriate resources to support teaching programs.
   • Develop their awareness of appropriate teaching methodologies.
   • Develop their awareness of issues related to the “stages of prevention”.
COMMUNITY

To support the wider community we:

- Share information about the consequences of possession, use and/or distribution of illicit and other unsanctioned drugs at school.
- Share information about proactive strategies undertaken within our school.
- Share information about supportive options/programs in the wider community.
- Share information about related national and state initiatives.
- Promote the message of the positive nature of effective child-parent communication.

We can do this through:

- Newsletters/Noticeboards.
- Class activities.
- Establishing a communicative relationship with the local police.

2. MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

- Any medication will only be administered by the school to students whose parents informed the school in writing of the students needs and/or have completed the ‘Medical Management Plan’ permission form.
- The storage of such medication is kept in a secure facility in the front office sick room.
- The administration of medication is as medically prescribed.

3. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Where a community member has become aware of a student using, possessing or distributing an illicit or other unsanctioned drug the following steps, as applicable will be put into place:

- Isolate the student(s) *(Teacher on Spot).*
- Confiscate the drug(s) *(Teacher on Spot).*
- Seek medical assistance as appropriate *(Teacher on Spot).*
- Ascertain the nature of the incident.

  What is relevant and factual vs. speculative, emotive and unsubstantiated? *(Principal, or Teacher In-Charge if Principal absent).*

  Actions to prevent further harm are put into place *(Principal, or Teacher-In-Charge if Principal absent).*
Parents of those students involved are notified (*Principal, or Teacher-In-Charge if Principal absent*).

Notification of relevant agencies i.e.: Police, CARL, (*Principal, or Teacher- In-Charge if Principal absent*).

- Police will be notified of all instances of use, possession or distribution of illicit drugs.

Support of those students associated with the incident (*Principal, or Teacher- In-Charge if Principal absent*).

- Respond to media enquiries (*Principal or CEO Principal’s Consultant if Principal absent*).

Identify if it is appropriate to share information regarding the incident with others not directly involved in the incident, and if so to whom and what information. (*Principal, or Teacher-In-Charge if Principal absent*).

Develop a plan for future engagement of students involved in the incident (*Student/s, Principal, or Teacher-in-Charge CEO Principal Consultant if Principal absent, Parents, Relevant Agencies*).

Collate and file relevant details associated with the incident (*Principal, or Teacher In-Charge if Principal absent, Teacher, Parents, Relevant Agencies*).

- Exploration of SACCS Suspension Expulsion Policy in relation to any such incident.
- Consequences will be determined by Principal in consultation with parents.

**FLEXIBILITY**

The process outlined above will be undertaken in a fair and consistent manner, taking into account the needs of each of those involved.

**RESOURCES**

1. Staff commitment
2. Occasional involvement of outside agencies e.g. CYFS, Police.

**Implementation** 2004

Reviewed & Ratified by Mary MacKillop Memorial School Board on 12/08/08

**POLICY REVIEW DATE** 2011