ST BRIGID’S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

DRUG & SUBSTANCE
ABUSE POLICY

School Board Policy Number Eight
School Board Policy Number: Eight

Endorsed: __________________________

Review: __________________________

Signed: __________________________
  (Chairperson)

Signed: __________________________
  (Principal)
St Brigid’s Catholic School ~ School Board Policy Number Eight

DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Philosophical Basis

Catholic schools, in partnership with parents, in union with Christ’s saving mission and school communities, educate young people for participation in the church and world communities today

The Policy for Drug Management is framed within the Vision Statement for South Australian Schools. This policy recognises that Catholic school communities develop the whole person, encourage the pursuit of excellence and celebrate the divine gifts of each student.

The use of illicit and unsanctioned drugs has no place in St Brigid’s School.

St Brigid’s promotes an optimum learning environment where the mental health of students and staff is vital to learning and success.

Background

Drugs are part of life in Australian society and drug use is a significant issue in our communities. It is vital that students and adults have the information, strategies and skills to prevent or reduce the harm that arises from drug usage. Illicit and unsanctioned drug use has no place in schools.

St Brigid’s School believes in educating students for active participation in all dimensions of life in Australia through witness to our Christian message.

“Drugs” refers to those substances which alter a person’s physical or mental state.

Underlying Principles

Underlying this policy is a belief in an education which aims at reconciliation, student autonomy and responsibility. Following the example of Jesus, St Brigid’s School aims to improve students so that they take responsibility for their own actions.

Drug Education is a shared responsibility between home, school and the community.

The issue of illicit use, whether problematic or experimental use, is primarily a health issue.

Everyone at St Brigid’s School has a right to a safe environment and a responsibility to promote safe practices.

Drug Education is most successful when it is part of an ongoing, appropriate and developmental Health Curriculum.

Drug Education should also address the values, attitudes and behaviours of the society within which the school and home operate.

The safety and well being of the child must be the paramount consideration in every situation.

Mandatory Provisions

Guide to Responsibilities

1. School Board

   – To ensure a safe, nurturing and supportive environment exists at St Brigid’s School for its students.
   – To ensure processes are in place to deal with possible transgressors.
   – To ensure appropriate resources are allocated.

2. Leadership Team

   – To ensure that the school meets these requirements through the provision and maintenance of child protection policy, practices, procedures and programmes.
   – To ensure the availability of appropriate professional development for staff.
   – To educate school communities about their legal responsibilities and school practices.
   – To support any CEO and SACCS Policies.

3. Staff

   – To be educated in the areas of Drug and Substance abuse.
   – To provide protection and abuse prevention curriculum for children port practices and processes as per this policy.
   – To develop decision making skills in students.
   – To be familiar with the School’s Policy on the taking of medication.

4. Students

   – To ensure they are familiar with and abide by the school’s policy and procedures.
   – To develop decision making skills.

5. Parents

   – To be familiar with and support the practices and procedures of this policy.
   – To inform the school of any potential issues affecting child safety.
   – Reinforce healthy life choices.
   – Support the school.
   – To be familiar with the School’s Policy on the taking of medication.

SB Policy Eight – Drug & Substance Abuse Policy (v2 2010)
No student will:
- Smoke tobacco or possess any other illicit substance on school premises.
- Misuse prescribed or over-the-counter medicine.
- Indulge in alcohol consumption (zero tolerance).
- Be under the influence of any of the above.
- Sell, supply, exchange or negotiate in relation to any of the above.
- Possess drug related objects unless medically authorized.

No staff, members of the school community, or other visitors to St Brigid's Catholic School:
- Smoke tobacco or possess any other illicit substance on school premises.
- Misuse prescribed or over-the-counter medicine.
- Misuse or over indulge in alcohol whilst on school site during school sponsored events.
- Be under the influence of any of the above.

Other Events:
- Other events held on St Brigid’s Catholic School property would be subject to state liquor licensing regulations.
- Smoking of tobacco or other illicit substances is not permitted.

Basis of Discretion

Procedures
School’s response to a drug related incident will be in line with the National Protocols and the CEO Guidelines.

Managing suspected drug-related incidents in overview (see also further detailed procedures).

Incident
Student/s suspected of possessing, distributing or using a drug, including being drug affected.

Initial procedures - all drugs
Calmly but firmly intervene ensuring the safety and health of student/s and particularly utilising OHS&W principles in caring for yourself.
1. Consider calling on additional staff. If intervening staff member is not a teacher, ESO/parent, a teacher should be called to the scene.
2. Inform student/s of suspicion and seek their cooperation.
3. Make a first aid assessment (and if necessary seek medical support).
4. Note incident details - who, what, when and where.
5. Safely, collect any suspected drugs and drug paraphernalia.
6. Escort student/s to Principal and hand over with details of incident.
7. Senior staff will investigate the claim and involve parents, CEO personnel and SAPOL as appropriate and develop a range of responses that take into account the circumstances, needs and safety of those involved.

Resources
- Catholic Education SA
- SAPOL

Evaluation
A review will be undertaken every three years