



Christ The King Catholic School

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Drug Education Policy

School Vision Statement

Guided by the teachings of Jesus, Christ the King Catholic School works in partnership with the families, community and church to educate students to flourish in all areas of life.

Rationale:

At Christ the King Catholic School, we believe that drug education is integral to the well-being of our students. We aim to provide a safe and supportive environment for the school community. We endeavour to engage the whole-school community in our drug education initiatives and are committed to providing our students with drug education and necessary related intervention across all year levels.

Aims:

Our *School Drug Education Guidelines* are consistent with the *Principles for School Drug Education*. The guidelines promote a whole-school approach to drug education where school staff, students, parents and the wider-school community work together with the aim of preventing and reducing potential and existing risks of harm from drug use, to establish and maintain a safe school environment.

Our guidelines have been developed in consultation with staff, students, parents and community members to address drug education and necessary related interventions in a caring and consistent manner within the Christ the King Catholic School.

Implementation:

Curriculum

- Our drug education action plan identifies age-appropriate drug education content across all year levels.
- We use evidence-based drug education resources such as *Challenges and Choices* (www.sdera.wa.edu.au) and REDI resources (www.deewr.gov.au).
- School administration supports staff to deliver appropriate drug education by allowing in-school time for planning, providing professional development opportunities for staff and allocating funds for resources and materials.
- Classroom programs focus on skill development and develop students' knowledge and understanding, attitudes and values and promote help-seeking behaviour.
- A minimum of three hours of drug education per term is provided to all students across each school year.
- Learning is extended from the classroom to promote parent support of drug education programs (e.g. through the use of take-home activities).

Ethos and Environment

- A School Drug Education Leadership Team with representatives from the teaching and administration staff, Aboriginal Teacher's Aides, students and parents is supported. ☑ Drug education is included in whole-school planning.
- All students have the opportunity to participate in drug education programs and initiatives.

- *School Drug Education Guidelines* are reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with the school community.
- School administration supports staff attendance at professional development to broaden their understanding and enhance their confidence in working well with drug use issues.
- We have developed and implemented *Procedures for Incident Management and Intervention Support* and these will be communicated through the whole-school community as a part of the *School Drug Education Guidelines*.

Parents and Community

- Parents and families are involved in drug education initiatives.
- Drug education information and strategies for parents and families are provided on a regular basis through a variety of methods such as the newsletter, website and at school assemblies.
- SDERA's *Connect* (www.sdera.wa.edu.au), is used to identify resources and agencies that support and complement our school drug education initiatives.
- Orientation packs to new staff members and families include our *School Drug Education Guidelines*.

Christ the King Catholic School does not permit students while on school premises, at any school function, excursion or camp to:

- smoke and/or possess tobacco products
- consume, possess or be affected by alcohol
- possess and/or use pharmaceutical drugs for non-medicinal purposes
- possess and/or use volatile substances
- possess and/or use illicit drugs
- possess and/or use drug-related equipment, with the exception of for intended legitimate medicinal use.

Incident Management & Intervention Support (Please see detailed procedural flowcharts for staff on pages 3 to 5 of this document).

In the event of a drug use incident or where a student requires intervention for a drug use issue the following steps will be followed. In summary:

- Student/s identified
- Principal notified
- Parents/Carers notified
- Police may be notified if illegal drugs involved
- Privacy and confidentiality will be respected
- the health and well-being of all parties involved will be given priority.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Incident Management

Immediate Actions

1. Keep calm
2. Consider staff support
3. Inform student/s of concerns
4. Ensure safety of student/s
5. Get the facts
6. Inform the Principal
7. Escort student/s for interview
8. Hand responsibility to the Principal and document details
9. Attend to other student/s involved

1. Keep calm

- Keep calm and focus on working through the steps outlined.

2. Consider support staff

- Decide whether or not you require support from another staff member prior to intervening.

3. Inform student/s of concerns

- Advise student/s of your concern around their behavior and your suspicion of possible drug use. State the boundaries of confidentiality and that your intervention aims to promote their safety.

4. Ensure safety of student/s

- Determine the need for first aid or emergency care.
- If the student/s appear physically unwell, proceed with school medical procedures and consider sending home.
- If Volatile Substance Use is suspected, approach with caution with reassurance of intent to support. Student safety in this case is promoted by reduced agitation. To startle or give chase can exacerbate risk of Sudden Sniffing Death Syndrome.
- Where possible, confiscate any drugs and isolate the student/s who appear to be directly involved.
- If student/s appear physically well and coherent, continue to work through the procedures that follow.

5. Get the facts

- Try to obtain the facts to promote the safety of the student/s involved. Was a drug used? How much was taken? When and how was it taken? Was more than one drug taken?
- Proceed in a no-threatening manner and so not make assumptions.

6. Inform the Principal

- Ensure the Principal is informed of the situation as soon as possible. Engaging the support of another staff member will assist with this. One staff member should remain with the student/s and the other should inform the Principal.

7. Escort student/s of interview

- Walk student/s to a private place known to be appropriate for the purpose of the interview situation.
- Ensure student/s wait under adult supervision until the Principal arrives.

8. Hand responsibility to the Principal and document details

- Hand over all information at your disposal as well as any drugs or related implements confiscated from the student/s.
- Document the confiscation and exchange details in line with documentation procedures.

9. Attend to other student/s involved

- Attend to the needs of all students involved to ensure their safety and welfare.
- Follow up with these students and if required consult with Principal who may notify their parents while adhering to the school's confidentiality requirements and respecting the privacy of those directly involved.

Intervention Support

Situation

Student drug use identified:

- Through student disclosure
- Through staff member raising concern
- As a result of drug related incident.

Immediate Actions

1. Inform student/s of concerns
2. Take matters seriously.
3. Get the facts.
4. Reassure student/s that their health and well-being are the primary concerns.
5. Inform parents/carers
6. Inform staff and document the details
7. Support student/s through referral process to appropriate staff members.



Disciplinary

Interventions –

Follow up Action

1. Implement appropriate disciplinary action (e.g. loss of privileges, detention).
2. Suspension
3. Suspension resolution
4. Liaise with the Police if required
5. Involve broader staff team
6. Affirm student/s participation
7. Document, monitor and evaluate

Student Welfare

interventions –

Follow up actions

1. Refer to support staff involved
2. Ensure inter-staff communications and feedback.
3. Engage broader school support.
4. Communicate with parents
5. Refer to external agencies
6. Address illicit drug use if acknowledged
7. Address Volatile Substance Use if acknowledged
8. Promote student autonomy
9. Affirm student/s participation
10. Implement student welfare strategies.
11. Document, monitor and evaluate.