



MALVERN VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

CURRICULUM

RATIONALE:

Drug Education is a joint responsibility between school, home and the broader community. Drug Education will be provided at all levels of schooling and will include specific drug education curriculum as well as resilience education, problem solving and appropriate coping strategies.

Effective drug education is important because young people are faced with many influences to use both licit and illicit drugs. Education can play a counterbalancing role in shaping a normative culture of safety, moderation, and informed decision making. Engaging students in drug education activities assists them to make healthy and safe choices, identify risky situations, and develop strategies to prepare them for challenging situations.

AIMS:

- The Drug Education Program will focus on a prevention model.
- To provide all students with a comprehensive, age appropriate drug education curriculum.
- To ensure that drug education is embedded across all key curriculum learning areas.
- That resilience education forms a strong basis for drug education at our school.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The school will include a specific, age appropriate and sequential drug education curriculum provided to each year level for a minimum of ten hours per year. This education program will aim to:
 - Increase student's knowledge, social and life skills, and refusal skills towards licit and illicit drug use
 - Include content relevant to young people's experiences and interests
 - Contain highly interactive pedagogies that engage students in problem solving and critical thinking
 - Commence activities prior to initial experimentation and continue as young people mature
 - Provide significant coverage of relevant issues complimented by follow up booster sessions
 - Position drug education within a broader health and personal learning curriculum that focuses, amongst other things, on mental health issues such as stress and coping
 - Respond to cultural and social needs of the school community
 - Engage parents where possible.
- The strategy will focus on developing students' life skills and protective behaviours, promoting the range of relationships in which students can engage, ensuring that students are connected to their schooling, and external influences such as, media, family and peers.
- A harm minimisation approach will be taken in accordance with the Department's guidelines.
- Appropriate resources will be used to enhance the curriculum eg. Get Real, Get Wise, Principles of Drug Education and other Australian Government resources.
- Drug Education will be inclusive of resilience education and will encompass problem-solving skills and appropriate coping strategies at all year levels.
- Professional development will be provided where necessary to ensure staff feel confident in delivering drug education
- The school is committed to providing information sessions for parents around drug education on a needs basis.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed with student, parent and community input as part of the school's three year review process.

RESOURCES:

DEECD Guidelines

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/pages/drugeducation.aspx>

Principles of Drug Education for Schools

<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/sdera/detcms/navigation/for-schools/resources/principles-for-school-drug-education/>

RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: 2014

TO BE REVIEWED: 2017