

Para Hills High School

POLICY ON DRUGS

Para Hills High School is committed to maintaining a safe, secure and supportive environment for its community and recognises engagement in learning as a strong protective factor against drug-related and other risks for young people. This policy links to a range of curriculum; policies and procedures; and positive school environment initiatives.

Our school takes action to prevent drug use by students and to intervene if it occurs by taking a whole of school approach. The use, possession and/or distribution of illicit drugs and the unsanctioned use and distribution of drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs, are not accepted. Suspected drug-related incidents will be responded with a mix of educative, deterrent and disciplinary responses, mindful of the need to consider principles of natural justice and legal obligations and of managing risks for the school and for DECD.

This policy also relates to our school's medication management, OHS&W and curriculum policies, and our school's behaviour code.

Partnerships are made with parents, South Australian Police (SAPOL), local health and community agencies to assist our school to address drug issues.

The following principles of natural justice and procedural fairness will apply in the management of suspected drug-related incidents, as outlined in Appendix D of Intervention matters:

- the right to be informed of the form of the proceedings
- the right to be represented by an advocate of choice
- the right to know what is alleged
- the right to be heard and to question evidence
- the right to impartial adjudication
- the qualified right to privacy
- the right to appeal and (in potentially very serious incidents with legal implications)
- the right of the student to legal representation.

Managing Drug-related incidents

If suspected drug-related incidents occur and drug issues arise, they will be managed and responded to in ways that:

- minimise the harm to all members of the school community
- ensure the wellbeing, educational careers and ongoing support for the students involved
- are both firm and fair.

Overview

Involvement with drugs, including illicit and unsanctioned drugs, means that school personnel have reason to believe that, on school grounds or when students are in the care of school staff:

- drugs have been or are being used
- students are or have been in possession of drugs or instruments used with drugs
- students are or have been present when drugs are being used by others.

In the event of a suspected drug-related incident:

- The safety and wellbeing of students will be considered paramount: they may need to be treated as unwell in accordance with the school's health plan and/or emergency procedures.
- Parents will be contacted in instances of possession, use or distribution of drugs.
- Police will be informed in instances of possession, use or distribution of: illicit drugs; drug paraphernalia; and/or illegal behaviour involving legal substances; and/or when an unidentified substance is suspected of being a drug.
- The regional office will be advised when suspected drug-related incidents involve the police and/or when an incident poses a risk to the school or to DECD. The incident will be then recorded through the Incident and Response Management System (IRMS).
- Consequences may vary and will depend on the nature of the situation, its potential for harm and the circumstances of the individual students involved. However, they most likely would involve suspension and or exclusion.
- Follow-up support for student wellbeing will be implemented such as regular meetings with student counselor or referral to out of school support services