



## **RATIONALE**

Alcohol, although legal, is considered one of the most harmful drugs affecting young people today. Our school has a community responsibility to fully inform our students, staff and whole school community about the effects of alcohol and drugs. Alcohol and drug education will sit within the context of our school's drug education program. The *Bus Safety Act 2009* (Vic) aims to provide for safe operation of bus services. This includes the introduction of new obligations relating to alcohol and drug management by bus operators. A drug is any substance (other than alcohol) that when consumed, deprives the person of normal mental or physical faculties (whether permanently or temporarily). In the context of a person who operates or is working with buses, this includes drugs that affect: mental alertness, vision, coordination, reaction to situations. A full list of drugs (including prescription medicine, over-the-counter medicine, common tranquillisers or stimulants, herbal remedies, or illicit drugs) that may constitute drugs can be found on the Transport Safety Victoria website.

Hamilton Special Developmental School is cognisant of its obligations under the **Child Safe Standards** (Ministerial Order 870 – effective August 1, 2016) to protect students from all forms of child abuse. To this end, all necessary precautions will be taken to ensure that our handling of incidents involving drugs and alcohol poses no risk to child safety.

## **AIMS**

At all times Hamilton Special Developmental School (HSDS) will adhere to the DET guidelines for staff and students involved in drugs and alcohol. This policy should be implemented in alignment with:

1. DET PROTECT Guidelines;  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/default.aspx?Redirect=1>
2. VRQA Child Safe Standards;  
<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe/Pages/default.html>
3. DET Drug Prevention Policy:  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/drugprevention.aspx>
4. DET Drug Use Policy:  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/druguse.aspx>
5. DET Alcohol Policy:
6. <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/alcohol.aspx>
7. Any other current or future policy related to the health and safety of staff and students of our school

Hamilton Special Developmental School staff will:

1. provide accurate information regarding the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body.
2. ensure students have the necessary knowledge and skills to make positive informed choices over their use of alcohol.
3. provide opportunities for the broader school community to participate in drug and alcohol education activities.
4. clearly define the processes required when alcohol has been brought on to the school property or a student or staff member has attended school clearly under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.



## **IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Drug and alcohol education activities will be provided, ensuring age appropriateness, as part of our school's drug education program.
2. Curriculum materials such as Get Real, Get Wise, Safe Partying and Re-thinking Drinking will be used to form the basis of alcohol education at our school.
3. Where appropriate, our school will access agencies within our local community with expertise in the field of alcohol education to participate in classes e.g. local police, Community Health Service, Drug & Alcohol counsellors.
4. Any lessons taught regarding drug and alcohol will be delivered within the context of a Harm Minimisation approach to drug education.
5. Drug and alcohol education activities will be provided for parents and the broader school community.
6. School Council approval is required before alcohol can be consumed on school premises. In doing so, Schools Councils must comply with the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998.
7. Consumption of alcohol at school events held off premises is subject to laws associated with provision of alcohol in public places.
8. A clear protocol will be developed for addressing the issue of a student, staff member or community member attending school or a school function clearly under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, or students consuming drugs and/or alcohol at school or during school functions.
9. The consumption of alcohol by staff members on camps or excursions is most unwise, is strongly discouraged and may compromise a staff members professional standing, their ability to carry out their duty of care, and/or loss of WorkCover rights. Students consuming alcohol on a school camp or excursion will be immediately returned to school, their parents (and police if under aged) will be contacted, and sanctions as determined by the principal will be applied.
10. Students are not permitted to bring alcohol on to school grounds under any circumstances, and a suspension from school will be a likely minimum outcome.
11. A bus driver must not have drugs or alcohol present in his or her blood or breath immediately before or while driving a bus.
12. Any staff member must not have drugs or alcohol present in his or her blood or breath immediately before or while transporting any students in any vehicle.
13. Bus drivers and staff members may be required to be tested under suspicion of the presence of consumed alcohol and drugs at the discretion of the principal.
  - a. The principal will determine the most appropriate means of testing under the guidance of health and/or legal professionals.
  - b. All results will remain confidential unless required to be released for legal purposes.
  - c. Testing will not occur more than an hour before transporting students, unless there is 'reasonable cause', e.g. if:
    - i. The bus driver or staff member has been involved in an accident
    - ii. There is a reason to believe the bus driver or staff member is impaired
    - iii. The bus driver or staff member ought to be tested in the interest of safety
  - d. All measures will be taken to ensure that testing is as confidential as practical.

# DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY



14. All bus drivers and staff members have the responsibility to manage the effects of substances they may be taking (including prescription medication) and to discuss this with the principal.
  - a. Non prescribed drugs are prohibited. With prescribed medication all staff must check with their doctors, which medication that they are currently on will not affect the duties required to be carried out.
15. Any member of staff that is found guilty of having any alcohol or any drug that is not prescribed while on duty will be dismissed instantly.
  - a. All drivers by law are required to have zero blood alcohol content while they are driving passenger school vehicles.
  - b. All carers also must have a zero blood alcohol content while they are working.

## **RESOURCES**

Drug Education - <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/drugedulearn.aspx>

Australian Drug Foundation – [www.druginfo.adf.org.au](http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au)

## **EVALUATION**

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