

## COMET HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

### DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

#### 1.0 Beliefs

Our drug education policy is consistent with our discipline and welfare policy:

- 1.1 The promotion of the physical, social, emotional well being of each child will help to reduce substance abuse.
- 1.2 Drug education is a shared responsibility between home, school and community.
- 1.3 We acknowledge that many people use drugs or are affected by the drug use of others and that non-drug users need to be supported.
- 1.4 A drug education program requires a range of approaches in both the curriculum and welfare areas. This helps to prevent and reduce drug-related harm, including prevention, early intervention and specialist support for those with drug-related problems.
- 1.5 A drug education program aims to minimise harm by providing a supportive environment in which to develop personal and social skills that equip students to deal with drug-related issues in a variety of contexts.

#### 2.0 Guidelines

Guidelines for the policy curriculum and welfare areas are consistent with the Department of Education's Schools of the Future Reference Guide.

- 2.1 Parents, staff students and relevant community members will be consulted in the development and regular reviews of this policy. A drug education core group (welfare committee) will be responsible for coordination and implementation.
- 2.2 Policy and procedures will be communicated to the parents at the beginning of the year and with new families when they enrol throughout the year. Visitors, staff, parents and students will also be informed about the policy through:
  - Classroom activities
  - Newsletters, noticeboard displays, publication of the policy in the School Information booklet.
  - On-going meetings, working parties and information sessions
- 2.3 A variety of teaching and learning strategies will support the curriculum at each level in order to;
  - Increase student knowledge of relevant and accurate facts about drugs
  - Develop personal, social and cognitive skills that equip students to deal with drug-related issues in a variety of contexts
  - Increase student understanding of the impact of drugs on society
  - Increase student understanding of the continuum of risk associated with drug use. This continuum is determined by the drugs used, the context in which they are used and the people involved.
  - Increase student knowledge and skills that equip them to contribute to the public debate about drug-related issues.
- 2.4 Staff will be encouraged and supported by the professional development coordinator to participate in professional development to assist them to:
  - Offer relevant and supportive drug education classroom programs and support to students within the classroom
  - Better identify students "at risk" and be able to access suitable advice and support for student, staff and family

- 2.5 Drug related curriculum and welfare programs will be supported by funding and where possible, time release to enable: :
- Teacher professional development to occur
  - Suitable teaching resources to be purchased
  - Appropriate welfare professionals to be accessed where specialised support is required.
- 2.6 The principal, welfare coordinator (Assistant Principal) and teachers will identify and support students at risk. The welfare coordinator will regularly up-date the Students at Risk register with information supplied by all members of staff.
- 2.7 The following programs will support parents and students:
- Peer mediation
  - Coping with Bullying
  - social skills
  - S.R.C.
  - Anger management
  - Breakfast program
  - Enrichment and extension
  - Transition
  - Use of outside expertise, eg, social worker, psychologist
  - Students with a Disability & Impairment Program
  - Buddy system
- 2.8 Children on medication, eg, for ADD will be given their medication at the office. Medication must be delivered to the main office by an adult, records will be kept of quantity delivered and daily dosage. Medications and records will be kept in a locked container. Children will keep their asthma and diabetes medications/equipment in their classroom.
- 2.9 An ambulance will be called in the case of any problems arising from incorrect usage of medications or in the case of misuse of a drug. Staff trained in first aid and CPR will assist the student until the ambulance arrives.
- 2.10 All visitors to the school are reminded that schools are smoke-free areas as stated in Government legislation. Signs around the school remind visitors that they are not permitted to smoke in school premises and grounds.
- 2.11 In the event of any drug-related issue the police, media and outside agencies will liaise with the principal only, as outlined in the Critical Incident policy.