

St Francis School

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DRUGS AWARENESS AND USAGE POLICY

RATIONALE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the school assists and encourages children to make sensible choices and decisions about their use of drugs as outlined in the Health and Physical Education Curriculum, and reflects the goals and objectives of the School Charter.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To implement the drug education component of the Health programme.
2. To ensure appropriate use of medicines at school.
3. To model sensible use of alcohol by adults at school related functions.
4. To encourage children and adults who are identified as having drug related problems to get the appropriate assistance.
5. To decide on appropriate ways of handling any drug information that may come to light.

GUIDELINES

1. The programme 'Dare to make a Choice' will be available to the senior classes as the Police Education Team become available.
2. Information on a pupil's health will be obtained on enrolment and kept on record.
3. Parents/guardians of any students who are required to bring medication to school are expected to contact staff and ...
 - i) for long term medication the parent will be asked to fill out the 'Medication Agreement'
 - ii) for short term medication the parent will be expected to supply written instructions
4. All medicine or other drug administration on the school premises will be, without exception, in accordance with the 'Administration of Medication Policy'.
5. Any consumption of alcohol by adults at staff and school functions, or other functions on school premises, shall be in accordance with the school's 'Alcohol Policy'.
6. Any information about drugs that comes to light during the teaching of 'DARE to make a Choice' will be handled as laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding of the Dare programme.

CONCLUSION

The school recognizes the importance of: -
Providing healthy role models.
All children being informed about caring for their bodies and healthy living.
This particular aspect of the health education curriculum.

DATE

REVIEW DATE

CHAIRPERSON

PRINCIPAL

APPENDIX

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

PURPOSE

1. To ensure children who have been prescribed medication and are otherwise fit to attend School without a danger to themselves or to others, may receive that medication during school hours, thus enabling their continued access to education.
2. To ensure children have immediate access to medication for any emergency condition which may arise. E.g. bee stings, asthmatic attack etc., and to keep the parents/guardians fully informed of such events.
3. To maintain a safe physical and emotional school environment.

GUIDELINES

1. Children at St.Francis School, with the exceptions detailed in 2. Below, are not to administer their own medication at school. If medication is required during school hours it must be done by their parents or staff or a nominated adult at an appointed time.
2. For long term conditions such as diabetes, asthma etc. where medication is required during School hours and the child has been taught to be responsible for administering his/her own medication, self medication is permitted. However, for this to take place the school must hold written authorisation from a parent, and this must include the detail listed in 5. Below, together with the name of the child's doctor.
3. Parents/guardians who wish staff to administer medication to their children must sign the Medication agreement authorizing non-medical personnel to undertake this responsibility
4. This statement must also be signed by staff members involved and the Principal.
5. A register shall be set up showing the medical practitioner's details on dispensing the medication.
i.e. Name of child
Name and dose of drug
Times of administration
Any precautions to be taken with the drug administration.
6. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to inform the school of any change in the children's Medical circumstances. Likewise, the school will inform the parents/guardians of non-compliance with or reaction to medicine taking.
7. Where the need for medication is ongoing, parents/guardians are encouraged to supply the Drugs to the school on a weekly basis.
8. The Board of Trustees support any staff agreeing to take responsibility for administering Children's prescribed medication during school hours. If any individual staff member does not wish to participate the School will endeavour to identify a consenting staff member who will do so. If no consenting staff members are available then it will become the parents/caregiver's responsibility to administer the medication.
9. Parents must be notified and give their consent before any pain relief, or other medication not specifically prescribed by a doctor for that child emergency, is given.

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