



# **MAMRE ANGLICAN SCHOOL**

## **DRUGS POLICY**

*Reviewed 2019*



## Drugs Policy

1. The possession, use and/or distribution of illicit and other unsanctioned drugs is not acceptable at Mamre Anglican School. The School has banned any illegal substance including: tobacco, herbal cigarettes, marijuana, alcohol, pharmaceuticals (see below for details), image and performance enhancing drugs and inhalants.
2. The School supports the view that the pursuit of abstinence from illegal drugs is both the safest and desired option for all its students.
3. The School gives a priority to the development and maintenance of a safe and supportive school environment for all students.
4. The Drugs Policy is to be read within the context of the National Safe Schools Framework and complements the Principles of a Safe Supportive School environment.
5. In relation to the School's Drug Education program:
  - a. the School recognises that provision of drug education must begin in the Junior School
  - b. the School will develop a whole school Drug Education program through the P.D./Health/P.E. Syllabus
  - c. the Drug Education program is intended to be proactive rather than reactive and punitive
  - d. the School desires to encourage in students a healthy lifestyle and to build students' knowledge, skills, values and attitudes so that responsible decisions about drugs can be made
  - e. the School aims to educate the students about the consequences of possession, use and/or distribution of illicit and other unsanctioned drugs at the School
  - f. the School recognises the need for appropriate professional development for staff
6. The School seeks to apply its responses to the possession, use and/or distribution of illicit and other unsanctioned drugs at school fairly and consistently.
7. Students may not possess, use or be under the influence of cigarettes, alcohol or any other drugs, illicit or unsanctioned, whilst at the School, or when representing the School.
8. Students may not use, offer for sale or distribute to other students illicit or unsanctioned drugs whilst at the School, or when representing the School.
9. The School recognises that a range of responses to drug related incidents will be appropriate. The response of the School will always be at the discretion of the Principal. Factors to be taken into consideration by the Principal in determining appropriate action will include:
  - the age of the student(s);
  - the circumstances of the student(s) concerned;
  - the needs and safety of others in the School; and
  - the legality of any incident under New South Wales Law.

However, it can be anticipated that a student in possession of an illicit drug whilst at the School or when representing the School will be suspended, and may well be required to be withdrawn from the School.

Equally, it can be anticipated that a student using, or offering for sale or distribution to other students an illicit drug will be required to be withdrawn from the School.

10. The School Drug Policy will be freely available to members of the School community and reviewed regularly by the School.
11. A student is permitted to take a "sanctioned drug" for a medical condition as long as this medication is made known to School staff.

Junior School students must have their medication administered to them by School staff at Reception.

Senior School students may have their medication administered to them by School staff at Reception.

No medication (including paracetamol / aspirin) will be administered to students unless permission has been given by the parents to do so.

### **Definitions**

- I. The term "drug" is used generically to refer to a substance, which produces a psychoactive effect, and includes tobacco, herbal cigarettes, alcohol, pharmaceutical drugs, illicit drugs, usage and performance enhancing drugs and inhalants.
- II. Pharmaceutical drugs are drugs available through the pharmacy, and include over-the-counter and prescription medicines.
- III. Illicit drugs are drugs for which the production, sale, possession or use is prohibited.
- IV. Image and performance enhancing drugs include steroids and amphetamines.
- V. Inhalants include many commercial and domestic products such as glue, aerosol sprays, paints, solvents, thinners, petrol and cleaning fluids.
- VI. Sanctioned drugs are drugs which have been prescribed by a medical practitioner for a particular student. Sanctioned drugs also include non-prescribed drugs, such as paracetamol, which have been approved by parents.