



**POLICY ON MEDICATION
AND PRESCRIBED AND NON-PRESCRIBED SUBSTANCES
2010**

Summary

Information for Parents

POLICY ON MEDICATION AND PRESCRIBED AND NON-PRESCRIBED SUBSTANCES

Position Statement

Our School aims to provide environments that equips students to lead safe, healthy, happy lives. Education about drug issues is led by classroom teachers in the context of the School's general education programme but we also recognise that all areas of school life and the wider community have an impact on student health and wellbeing. In our School this means:

- equipping students for informed decision making
- responding to drug use as a health issue rather than purely a disciplinary issue based on the best and most current guidelines available (e.g. *Management of Drug Issues and Drug Education in Tasmanian Schools*)
- addressing the values and attitudes of the school's community

Rationale

There has been a considerable change in thinking in recent years regarding the management of drug issues, including the management of drug education in schools. At Fahan we recognise the importance of extensive consultation between all parties in the school community because we understand that drug use affects whole communities. While the school is not responsible for enforcing the law, it does have a duty of care to protect the health of children at the school in the absence of parents. We therefore undertake to:

- promote and support the health and wellbeing of students at the school
- establish practices that are consistent with nationally agreed principles
- encourage and support all students to remain engaged in their educational pathway
- support all students with appropriate learning opportunities
- be alert and responsive to student needs within the context of our school community
- respond to drug use in ways that support continued student connectedness to and participation in the life of the school

Parents/Carers will be Responsible For:

1. Contributing to the development of and supporting the school policies and procedures in relation to drug use;
2. taking care that they do not possess or take, and not under the influence of, any illicit or unsanctioned drug while in the school or attending a school function;
3. ensuring, insofar as they are able, that no illicit or unsanctioned drug or drug paraphernalia is taken onto school premises or to school functions/activities, and that no illicit or unsanctioned drugs are used or distributed on those premises or at those functions/activities
4. advising the School of the medical condition of their daughter and updating the School if the condition or treatment changes

Students will be responsible for:

1. contributing to the development of, becoming familiar with, and respecting the school's policies and procedures in relation to drug use;
2. ensuring that no illicit or unsanctioned drug or drug paraphernalia is brought onto school premises or to school function/activities, and that no illicit or unsanctioned drugs are used or distributed on those premises or at those function/activities.
3. ensuring that they do not possess or take, and are not under the influence of, any illicit or unsanctioned drug while attending the school or a school function.

Guidelines

- The Principal has authorised the administration of medications to be supervised by designated staff
- All prescribed medications (whether for short or long term use) are to be brought to school in the original containers complete with the pharmacy label showing medical instructions.
- Non-prescribed medications brought to school must be of required dosages only for the school day and also in original container. The quantity sent to school is to be accompanied by a note signed by the parent/carer.
- Where non-prescribed medications are found to be brought to school by a student without an accompanying note signed by the parent/carer, the medication will be kept in the school office to be collected by the parent/carer who will be notified but;
- Where the student insists that the medication is required then parents will be contacted. Medication will not be administered without parent/carer consent
- Parents/carers will be contacted to collect their child from school where symptoms persist after medication has been administered
- Parents/carers are required to notify the school in writing in cases where drug-related changes to behaviour or performance have occurred or are likely to occur
- Parents/carers are required to notify the school in writing in cases where there are changes to the medical condition of a student

Asthma

With written permission from a parent/carer and with the approval of the school Principal the student may be responsible for an inhaler (SHCR 2000).

See Guidelines. All medications brought to school are to be accompanied by written instructions.

ADD & ADHD

The supervision of the administration of ADD and ADHD medications is undertaken by the staff member in the student's Medical Action Plan. Under no circumstances are students to keep these medications with them during the school day.

Alcohol and Tobacco

While at the school, teachers and other adults are required to exercise sound judgement and duty of care by providing positive role models to students. Visiting adults are required to ensure that they are not under the influence of any illicit or unsanctioned drug, including tobacco and alcohol, while attending the school, a school excursion/camp or other official school function.

Drugs in Sport

Healthy attitudes to sport are fostered at Fahan. We discourage the use of medications and practices which mask the symptoms of injury and may encourage students to participate while injured.

Right of Search and Handling Illicit Substances

Unsanctioned Drug: A drug whose use is restricted by law, school authorities and/or school policies/guidelines. It includes illicit substances, the unauthorised use of prescription drugs, as well as tobacco and alcohol

Illicit Drug: A drug for which the production, sale, possession or use is prohibited. An alternative term is 'illegal' drug.

Responses to drug-related incidents at Fahan are based on the principle of **Harm Minimisation**. Our approaches include:

- **Education** of students and the wider community
- **Early detection** of students at risk and the development of protective factors through all environments of the school
- **Support, counselling and referral procedures** for students having serious problems with drug use.

Intervention and Referral

Responses to drug-related incidents at Fahan will not isolate or marginalise students but are designed to support behaviour change and educate to lessen risk taking.

Responses to Drug-Related incidents Involving Illicit and Unsanctioned Drugs at School

- Principal and Deputy Principal notified
- Parents/carers informed
- Student, parents/carers, Principal meet to clarify the issues around the incident.
- Determine pathways for referral if required
- Notify student of the school's drug policy and the law
- Establish/negotiate consequences of future incidents
- Suspension may occur for:
 - * repeat offences in order to establish the role of the family in the student's recovery
 - * where other students are at risk
 - * where it is believed the behaviour may be moderated by this course of action
 - * where time is needed for school staff to examine options

Individual Management Plans will detail preventative procedures and resources as well as any interventions that need to be implemented. Wherever possible the student will remain part of the class group and will be treated in an equitable manner.