



Drug Education and Management Policy

Purpose

The Drug Education and Management Policy aims to state Lambert School's stance regarding drug education, drug management and the management of drug-related incidents in their premises, including confiscation of alcohol, smoking products, vapes and other illicit drugs.

This Policy applies to all Learning Environments at Lambert School and is a guide to assist with the development of any policy or procedure regarding drug education, drug incidents, and drug management. Staff at Lambert School should be aware of their responsibilities regarding drug education, drug management and the management of drug-related incidents. Acting inconsistently with this policy and the nationally accepted protocols and departmental policies for drug related issues in learning environments may have legal ramifications. It is essential to ensure that the staff have a lawful and consistent approach to providing drug education and managing drug related incidents. A systemic approach ensures all learners and staff are provided with an environment that is supportive and free from harm.

Principal of Harm Minimisation

The philosophy of "harm minimisation" underpins the National Drug Strategy, the Tasmanian Drug Strategy and any Department of Education policies for drug education and management in Learning Environments. Harm minimisation is considered to be the most useful approach to drug-related issues. It aims to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences of alcohol, smoking products and other drugs for individuals, their families and friends, and the community. The key concept for this approach is that drug use should be minimised and that harm from drug use and psychoactive substances should be limited. Harm minimisation involves a range of approaches to prevent or reduce drug-related harm, including prevention, early intervention, specialist treatment, supply control, safer drug use and abstinence. It involves a balance between demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction strategies aimed at promoting better health, social and economic outcomes for the community and the individual. According to the harm minimisation approach, Learning Environments should neither condone nor encourage the misuse of drugs by young people, while acknowledging that it is likely that some students will experiment with drugs. At Lambert School this means encouraging personal choice and informed decision-making by students as the foundation of effective drug prevention and intervention strategies. It also means the provision of a supportive environment that maximises the factors known to be protective for students in reducing risk-taking behaviours.

There is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Tasmania Police, Tasmanian Schools, and the Department of Education. This MoU complements preventative school-based drug education programs and ensures that, where police intervention is requested in relation to drug-related incidents in schools, police and individual school responses are planned, structured and consistent with the National Drug Strategy. Educational Leaders and staff should be aware of the MoU and its contents.

Children, Young People and their Families Act 1997 (CYPFA) The CYPFA makes all people coming into contact with students in a professional role mandatory reporters, including staff and volunteers.

Learning Environments.

If a student discloses drug use in any circumstances it is considered that the student may be at risk within the framework of this Act and a notification MUST be made.

Roles and Responsibilities

Educational Leaders MUST:

- Ensure the Learning Environment and its drug policies are planned to provide a safe and supportive environment for all students.
- Ensure the Learning Environment's drug-related policy and guidelines are up to date, and follow requirements outlined in this Policy.
- Ensure staff are aware of drug policies and have the tools/knowledge to apply them.
- Ensure that staff, parents, volunteers, students, and the wider community are aware of the Learning Environment's policies for drug education, drug management and responses to drug-related incidents.

Teachers and other support staff MUST:

- Be aware of, understand and comply with the Learning Environment's policy for drug education and management of drug-related issues.

Searching student's belongings

Staff can search a student's locker or similar school-provided area without permission because these things are generally considered school property. Staff can search a student's bag with permission. If permission is not attained, the student can be asked to empty their bags out themselves. The only time staff can search a bag is if they think there is an urgent risk to the safety of other students. Staff need to remind the student that the school can always call the police who can search them without permission.

For further information refer to [Drug Education and Management Policy](#) at the Tasmanian Department of Education.