DRUG EDUCATION POLICY
STUDENT INFORMATION 2016

This document will provide students with a summary of relevant information relating to the CVHS and Department of Education drug policies. It is to be kept in the front of each student’s blue CVHS Health folder.

Preamble
Canley Vale High School is committed to enhancing the health, welfare and safety of its students and staff. Recent media coverage has highlighted the extent of drug related issues in the local community. The need for a sound and effective Drug Policy is predicated upon the prevalence of these drug-related issues in the community.

Aim
The aim of the Canley Vale High School Drug Education Policy is the prevention of problems associated with drug use. The term ‘drug use’ is understood to be an all-inclusive term that comprises a large number of substances covering:

- Prescribed medications
- Legal & Restricted substances (like caffeine, tobacco and alcohol)
- Illegal substances (like heroin and marijuana)
- Any other substance that people consider to be a drug

Outcomes
1. School staff will be better able to respond to drug use issues
2. Consistent procedures will be applied in dealing with drug-related incidents
3. Students will be better able to make appropriate decisions regarding their drug use

The Drug Policy has Two Principal Strategies:

1. Prevention – the School will provide comprehensive, preventative drug education programs for students in Years 7 – 12. These programs will occur within the broad framework of Student Welfare, Personal Development and Health Education, allowing students to:
   - Increase their awareness of the complex issues involved in drug use
   - Participate in learning activities which will assist them in making informed, responsible and healthy decisions
   - Evaluate behaviour which influences the safety of self and others
   - Analyse how different contexts and situations influence personal values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviours
2. **Intervention** – the School will provide appropriate policies and procedures regarding the use and misuse of drugs at school. These policies and procedures will be detailed under the broad headings of:
   - Medication
   - Legal & Restricted drugs
   - Illegal drugs

These policies and procedures are listed below as Appendices 1 – 3.

**Appendix 1 - Medication**

School staff will not be responsible for the administration of any medication to students. Students are to be encouraged to administer any medication at home.

If a doctor has prescribed medication that is to be taken by a student during school hours, the medication should be left at the First Aid Room/Clinic with Mrs Moloney, who will enter it into a central register of medicines. The medication should be clearly marked showing the name of the doctor, the name of the drug, the name of the student for whom it was prescribed and the recommended dosage. However, Mrs Maloney will not be responsible for supervising the administration of these medications.

Large quantities of analgesics (e.g. Panadol) should not be brought to school. If a student requires such non-prescription medication, single dosage only should be brought to school. Staff and students need to be aware that abuse of analgesics may be a health issue.

Students who suffer from asthma are to be encouraged to seek appropriate medical advice in relation to the prevention of asthma. These students should be encouraged to carry and use any emergency medication (e.g. Ventolin) that a doctor may have recommended. If a student has an acute asthma attack, appropriate steps should be taken to immediately call an ambulance.

**Appendix 2 - Legal & Restricted Drugs**

**Tobacco**
Canley Vale High School, like all other Government schools, is a ‘smoke-free zone’. Staff and students are not permitted to smoke tobacco on school premises. Students found smoking will be referred to a Deputy Principal.

**Alcohol**
Possession or consumption of alcohol at school by students or anyone else in the company of students, is forbidden. Students who:
1. bring alcohol to school will be suspended and their parents will be called to the school for an interview with the Principal
2. attend school under the influence of alcohol will be sent home with parents or, if parents are unavailable, will be sent to hospital by ambulance.

Students who are experiencing difficulties in controlling their use of these substances will be referred to the School Counsellor for appropriate intervention and assistance.
Appendix 3 - Illegal Drugs

The possession or use of illegal drugs at school is a very serious offence.

1. Students found in possession of, or selling illegal drugs at school will be immediately suspended. The student's parents will be contacted and the police notified.
2. Students suspected of being under the influence of an illegal substance will be immediately sent to the Principal. They will be sent home with their parents. Before they return to school, they must have taken some positive steps to get help for their problem.
3. If a student self-refers to the Counsellor, Head Teacher Welfare, Student Adviser or any member of staff, the Principal must be notified. Students can then be referred to the appropriate agencies for help. The Principal, Deputies, Counsellor and Head Teacher Welfare have a list of these agencies.

Further Information

Parents or care-givers who require further information in relation to this issue should contact the Head Teacher PDHPE.

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