

Rationale

The Prohibited Substances Policy is framed within Bayview's Christian ethos, as well as its obligations under the requirements of the Victorian legal system and in administering its Duty of Care to all students and staff members.

In particular, the College

- promotes and fosters the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being and growth of young people
- seeks to develop students' decision-making skills that lead to personal growth and the development of personal responsibility
- reinforces students' responsibilities to the wider community with respect to prohibited substances
- respects the rights of individuals and the wellbeing of the College community
- seeks to ensure that natural justice for students is served.

Policy Statement

A drug/prohibited substance is any substance which alters the function of the body if taken internally (not including food and water). Examples include alcohol, cigarettes, cannabis, amphetamines, other illegal substances, prescribed medication, and legally obtained substances which are misused.

- Bayview College does not permit students while at school, on school-related activities or travelling to and from school to
- Supply, possess, use or be under the influence of any illegal or legal drugs, except for medical reasons.
- Supply or misuse any legal drugs or substances
- Supply, possess, or use tobacco. Consistent with legislation Bayview College is a smoke-free school.
- Supply, possess or Vape at school
- Supply, possess, consume or be under the influence of alcohol
- Deliberately inhale solvents
- Supply, possess, or use drug-related equipment such as syringes (unless prescribed for medical reasons and advised to Bayview College staff) or smoking equipment

Prevention

The College provides support for students in preventing drug abuse through drug education programs delivered in the Health and Wellbeing curriculum. All staff are responsible to ensure that students are provided with relevant information to enable them to make informed choices and to minimise the harm associated with drug use.

The College curriculum addresses many issues related to drug use, specifically the following:

- Accurate and current facts about drugs which focus on the risks as well as benefits
- Personal drug use in which risk-taking is examined in a non-judgemental way

- Challenging myths and stereotypes
- Harm minimisation
- Drugs, the law, legal rights, and responsibilities
- Skills to help oneself and others with drug related issues and in emergencies
- Useful resources such as websites, phone numbers and agencies who can assist young people in relation to drug use.
- Parent or community workshops and publications. These are designed to educate parents and other adults.

Prescribed medication

Bayview College should be notified about any prescribed medication to be taken on school premises. Appropriate prescribed drug use needs to be monitored by the First Aid Staff with parental support. (See Medication Policy)

Illegal Drugs

The supply, possession and use of illegal drugs is an offence and is against the law. If any student is found to be in possession of, supplying or using illegal drugs while at school, on school-related activities or travelling to and from school:

- The student will be suspended immediately
- His/her parents will be notified to begin a consultation process
- The police will be notified
- At the discretion of the Principal the student may be expelled
- Other sanctions may be enforced

Sanctions

Sanctions are a range of actions that may be taken when any element of the Prohibited Substance Policy has been infringed. Sanctions will be enforced at the discretion of the Principal or Deputy Principal. The range of sanctions include:

- Immediate suspension from classes or school
- Informing and consulting parents
- Being sent home from school camps or other school activities
- Counselling and support
- Referral to an outside agency
- Notifying police
- Community service, in conjunction with outside agencies
- Loss of any office held
- Behaviour contract
- Expulsion from school

Procedures for the Management of Prohibited Substance Related Incidents

A Prohibited Substance incident occurs when the suspected use of an illegal or unsanctioned substance occurs on the school site or at a supervised school activity. When a Prohibited Substance incident occurs the following principles and procedures apply:

- The incident will be investigated in the first instance by the Deputy Principal, who will refer it to the Principal.
- In the process of investigation, the Deputy Principal may ask a student to display his/her possessions or the contents of his/her locker or bag. Should such an investigation be necessary, it will occur in the presence of the student concerned and a second adult witness. All necessary safety precautions will be taken when searching possessions.
- The College Wellbeing Officer will provide support to a student involved in a Prohibited Substance incident.
- A student under investigation has the right to natural justice, including the right to privacy, confidentiality, and the right to be heard. He/she also has the right to an advocate and to support through the process.
- Parents will be informed of any investigation of a Prohibited Substance incident involving their son/daughter.
- As required by law, the police will be informed of incidents of an illegal nature i.e. the use and possession of illegal drugs and the unsanctioned use of prescribed medications. The police will be asked to seize the items under investigation. Only in the event that the police are unable to respond to a request to seize prohibited items will the Deputy Principal, in the presence of an adult witness, place the items in a secure location, with a written record of the seized items.
- Where a Prohibited Substance related incident occurs during a school activity in out-of-school hours or location, the responsible member of staff will take the necessary action to seize and secure the prohibited substance. This will be done in the presence of another adult witness and details of the seized item will be recorded. The item will be handed to the police at the earliest opportunity.

Legislation

Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 (Vic.).

Associated Documentation

Student Code of Conduct
School Counselling Policy
First Aid Policy
Medication Policy
Child Safety Policy
Parent Code of Conduct