



**Yarra Valley Grammar is committed to the care, safety and wellbeing of its students. Trends in modern society indicating increasing experimentation with and abuse of drugs have demanded that schools take steps to address and deflect community concerns about this problem. The School recognises that drug use is a community wide problem. The School also recognises that students can be affected by** ue

*confidence to achieve*

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL IN THE ANGLICAN TRADITION

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**The Yarra Valley Gammar Drug Policy is based upon core principles endorsed by medical, legal and ethical practitioners. These are:**

- a) Alcohol and nicotine are the major causes of drug-related harm**
  
- b) That any policy should be consistent with the Harm Minimisation approach adopted by State and Federal Governments in Australia, which takes into account the relationships between people, their drug use and the environment in which their drug use occurs. A Harm Minimisation approach supports targeted strategies designed to have maximum impact in reducing negative effects of drug use and improving health, social and economic outcomes for the individual and community. . Outcomes may include abstinence or prevention of drug use, reduced or controlled use, and safer administration or reduction of the harmful consequences of drug use for the community.**
  
- c) That the cause of drug use is not only experimentation and the 'pursuit of pleasure', but also is often perceived as self-medication- to reduce pain or suffering**
  
- d) That a standard approach to drug education, with existing procedures will be insufficient**



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**The intervention procedure is designed to address incidents of drug use in a way which is in the best interest of all parties, while also conforming to legal requirements**

**Yana Valley Grammar does not permit students, while on School premises and whether or not under School supervision, to**

- a) Smoke tobacco products**
- b) Consume or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages**
- c) Deliberately inhale substances such as glue, paint, nitrous oxide and petrol**
- d) Possess drug related equipment such as syringes (unless prescribed for medical reasons and with the knowledge of the Yana Valley employees) bongs, pipes, nitrous oxide cartridges, etc**
- e) Possess, use or be under the influence of drugs prohibited in accordance with the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 (Vic)**
- f) Be under the influence of drugs, except for medical reasons**

**These provisos include all occasions when a student is in School uniform or is representing the School, traveling to and from School, or any camp, excursions, sporting events or other organized function, e.g. disco, formal, social or sporting function**

**In spite of what individuals may think or feel, the law regarding the sale or possession of illegal drugs is clear, and penalties are provided for the prosecution of offenders**

**Where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion of drug use or possession, the Principal or a Head of School may, in the presence of the student and another teacher, search property such as a bag or search locker (which is deemed to be the School's property). If the Principal is not part of the search process, then the Principal must be notified of the situation within 24 hours**

**Parents or guardians will be informed if a student is involved in an incident.**

**Any information provided or discovered will be treated confidentially until a thorough investigation has been completed, at which time it may be deemed necessary to reveal such information**

**In the case of student use, possession or intention to supply drugs on the School property, appropriate sanctions will be decided by the Principal, School Heads and other relevant employees, and may include expulsion**

**The School will establish a checklist of short-term actions to be taken by employees on discovery of drug use, e.g. lines of communication amongst concerned people**

**The School will maintain a directory containing local doctors, clinics and agencies to which students with a drug problem can be referred. Copies will be held by the Principal, School Heads, Head of Student Wellbeing, the Health Centre and the Chaplain**



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- d) Detention**
  - e) Suspension from School**
  - f) Expulsion from School**
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**Students found drinking or intoxicated in possession of alcohol, buying alcohol from other students or supplying alcohol to other students, in any School environment, will be liable to a range of sanctions dependent on the circumstances, at the discretion of the Principal**

**This range of sanctions includes**

- a) Informing and consulting parents**
- b)**

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- a) Informing and consulting parents**
  - b) Being sent home from School camps or School events and functions (at parent's expense);**
  - c) Community service;**
  - d) Referral to outside agency;**
  - e) Notifying police;**
  - f) Suspension from School;**
  - g) Expulsion**

**The actions of the School will be consistent with the following guidelines**

- a) Medication includes all prescribed drugs and all legal non-prescribed drugs such as paracetamol, ventolin puffers, etc**
- b) Students who are required to use occasional medication at School should have a written request from their parents/guardians**
- c) Medication used on a long term basis should be recorded by the parent/guardians on the School Medical Form held by the Health Centre**
- d) School-supplied medication may only be administered to students by the School Nurses or**