Licit and Illicit Drugs

Rationale:

- Licit and Illicit drug possession and use in schools is a social, health and legal issue that needs to be addressed in accordance with protocols established between the Education Department and the Victorian Police Force.

Aims:

- To provide a school environment that is free of illicit drugs, and safe for all students, staff and visitors through harm minimisation.

Implementation:

- Our school will provide professional development and training for all staff, which is current and relevant in the areas of licit and illicit drugs.

   Illicit Drugs
   - Staff at Officer Primary School have a legal responsibility to take reasonable measures to protect students in their care from risk of injury that they should have reasonably foreseen, including risks associated with illicit drugs.
   - Our school does not accept that any student, staff member or visitor use, possess, supply or be under the influence of illicit drugs at school, at a school function or in the vicinity of the school or its’ students.
   - Our school will act whenever cases of illicit drug use or possession, or illegal activity occur, or are suspected to have occurred at school. Such action must involve:
     - Staff members informing the Principal.
     - The Principal contacting the police.
     - Principal to inform the parents of the students directly involved in the incident.
     - Counselling or support as necessary to be arranged by the school.

- It is the Principal’s decision as to whether the entire student body and parents are informed of incidents involving drugs at school. The Principal, when making this decision, will consider:
  - The circumstances and degree of the incident.
  - That their legal responsibility is to ensure the school is, as far as practicable, safe and free from risks.
  - Possible repercussions for those involved in the incident and their families.

- In matters involving significant drug use or possession, the Principal will consult with school council.
- School lockers and desks are the property of the school and may be searched without notice.
- If a student/s is suspected of carrying illicit drugs in school bags or personal clothing, staff will:
  - Separate the student from others.
  - Supervise the student at all times.
  - Contact the police.
• The Principal or Principal’s delegate can conduct an immediate search of the students’ property in the company of another staff member if there is imminent danger the student is likely to use an illicit drug without warning while the police are being contacted.
• Lessons relating to drug education will form part of the School Council’s Individual Drug Education Strategy (ISDES) and will be implemented across all school levels.
• Parents will be informed of drug education lessons.
• At risk children will be monitored and referred to relevant bodies.

Licent Drugs
• School Council will be informed regarding the consumption of alcohol at school functions when held on site.
• Where alcohol is consumed at school events, responsible consumption is encouraged.
• Prescribed and pharmacy medications including pain relief will be administered according to the medication policy.

Evaluation:
• This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.