



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Iramoo Primary School on (03) 9741 2803 or iramoo.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

RATIONALE

Effective drug education is important because young people are faced with many influences to use both licit and illicit drugs. Education can play a counterbalancing role in shaping a normative culture of safety, moderation, and informed decision making. Engaging students in drug education activities assists them to make healthy and safe choices, identify risky situations, and develop strategies to prepare them for challenging situations. Appropriate skills, knowledge, values and attitudes will be taught to students to minimise drug-related harm, with a high priority being given to students' welfare. Medication at school is to be processed and managed in accordance with school medication policies and procedures.

AIMS

To provide a school environment that is free of illicit drugs and safe for all staff and students by:

- increasing student's knowledge, social and life skills, and refusal skills towards licit and illicit drug use
- position drug education within a broader health and personal learning curriculum that focuses, amongst other things, on mental health issues such as stress and coping
- involving staff in planning and implementing Drug Education programs/teaching and learning activities
- providing a planned and consistent approach to any drug-related incidents; e.g. syringe safety
- providing professional development and appropriate resources for staff so that they feel confident in teaching drug education
- managing medication in a safe and responsible manner and in accordance with school medication policies and procedures.

IMPLEMENTATION

- The Life Education program will be used biannually throughout the school as a stimulus and important resource for Drug Education.
- Social skills programs such as *Respectful Relationships* and *Program Achieve: You Can Do It* will be implemented to support students' mental wellbeing.
- Teachers update and deliver drug education curriculum that is based on the Victorian Curriculum.
- Teachers are provided with the Iramoo Primary School Drug Education Guidelines that include Victorian Curriculum content descriptors, achievement standards and related activities for each year level. This document to be updated each year.

- Professional development focusing on current available resources (e.g. *Talking Tactics Together*, *Resilience and Drug Information Kits*), classroom strategies and drug-related student welfare to be provided as required.
- An action plan for dealing with syringe safety will be displayed in appropriate places throughout the school.
- Guidelines for recording and administering first aid and medication will be reviewed against the DET Guidelines as required.
- Current First Aid qualifications will be kept up to date/maintained.

RELATED POLICIES

- Excursions and Camps Policy
- Respectful Relationships Policy
- First aid Policy
- Medications Policy

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL) & DET resources:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/phised/Pages/drugeducation.aspx>

The development and delivery of units of work including specialised programs e.g. Life Education. Published DET guidelines for recording and administering first aid and medication.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in newsletter or Compass notifications
- Included in our staff induction process
- Discussed at school meetings
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

Policy REVIEW and Approval

Policy last reviewed	August, 2023
Approved and ratified by	School Council
Next scheduled review date (3 years)	August, 2026