



# ***Cranbourne East Primary School DRUG EDUCATION POLICY 2014***

## **RATIONALE**

School drug education utilises a whole school approach to health promotion, prevention and early intervention to student wellbeing and engagement, based on the principals of harm minimisation. It aims to promote resilience, and build on knowledge, skills and behaviours to enable young people to make responsible, healthy and safe choices.

The World Health Organisation defines a drug as any substance or mixture of substances that affects the brain or body, other than those required for normal health. This definition includes legal substances such as caffeine, pain relievers, tobacco and alcohol and illegal substances such as marijuana, cocaine and hallucinogens.

## **GOALS**

- To develop life-long attitudes and behaviour which will minimise the harmful consequences of drug use.
- To reduce the amount of harm associated with drug and alcohol use.
- To ensure that a balanced and consistent approach to drug and alcohol related health and welfare issues operates throughout the school community.
- To improve the quality and quantity of drug and alcohol education by providing accurate information about drugs and alcohol.
- To raise awareness and inform parents of drug and alcohol issues and the school processes for managing these issues.
- To improve links with community agencies.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Develop a curriculum based on a drug education strategy, which provides accurate information about drug and alcohol issues. This curriculum will include:

- Accurate information on relevant drugs (to be implemented with consideration of students' age and maturity, in line with curriculum guidelines)
- Harm reduction/harm minimisation strategies
- Understanding values and attitudes around drug and alcohol use
- Fostering a feeling of self-worth in students to develop their social and personal skills in order to equip them to cope with problems and solve them.
- Ensure annual curriculum review and evaluation of outcomes complies with the policy.
- Plan and run parent awareness raising and information nights on drug and alcohol related issues.

## **EVALUATION**

Cranbourne East Primary School will review the effectiveness of this policy through:

- Feedback from students, staff and parent feedback and involvement.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Ratified by School Council: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013