

## *Basic Beliefs*

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- The promotion of the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of each child will help to reduce substance misuse.
- We acknowledge that many people use or are affected by the drug use of others and that non-drug uses also need to be supported.
- A drug education program requires a range of approaches in both the curriculum and welfare areas.
- The adoption of a harm minimisation approach does not mean that the school condones drug use. The school will continue to take firm measures against individuals whose behaviour poses a danger to other students.

## *Aims*

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- To raise student's positive self esteem.
- To enhance worthwhile relationships between all members of the school community.
- To develop in students an awareness of the influence and effects of drugs.
- To provide students with accurate, factual information about drugs.
- To provide supportive procedures for students and families dealing with drug related issues.
- To develop in students life skills, such as communication, decision making and problem solving, providing them with strategies to make alternative choices.

## *Guidelines*

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- At Milawa Primary School, Individual Schools Drug Education Strategies (ISDES) will be implemented and aligned with the Department of Education guidelines. The Policy will be an integral part of the schools overall Health Program.
- Parents, staff and students will be consulted in the development and regular review of this policy in order to:
  - Share the responsibility of drug education between the school, home and the community.
  - Ensure that there is ongoing communication between parents, students and teachers on drug and student welfare related issues.
- A variety of learning and teaching strategies will support the curriculum at each level in order to:
  - Increase student knowledge of relevant and accurate facts about drugs.
  - Develop personal, social and cognitive skills that equip students to deal with drug related issues in a variety of contexts.
  - Increase student understanding of the impact of drugs on society
  - Increase students understanding of the continual risks associated with drug use and misuse and allow them to make alternative choices.
- The drug education program will complement the Life Education Program.
- Drug-related curriculum and welfare programs will be supported by funding to enable:

- Teacher professional development to occur
  - Suitable teaching resources to be purchased
  - Appropriate welfare professionals to be accessed where specialised support is required.
- Procedures for dealing with drug related incidents (including syringe education) will be developed and included as an appendix to this policy. This will include the procedures and protocols for involving police and outside agencies in a drug related issue and handling the media in the event of a drug related incident.

## *Evaluation*

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The evaluation of the ISDES Program will be ongoing and may include:

- Student self-evaluation, anonymous questionnaires, queries etc.
- Parent questionnaires and questions in the annual parent survey.
- Resource usage and the professional development of staff.
- Staff feedback from the annual staff survey.
- Analysis of student conduct and any drug related incidents.