

Drug Policy

VISION STATEMENT

GERALDTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL WILL PROVIDE OUTSTANDING EDUCATION AND A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY, CULTIVATING PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY, INDEPENDENCE OF MIND AND A LOVE OF LEARNING.

| | |
|---|--|
| Introduction | This statement outlines the Geraldton Grammar School policy on alcohol, tobacco and other drug related matters at the school. |
| Scope and application | Policy applies to all employees of Geraldton Grammar School but mainly the policy makers – members of the senior management team |
| Related legislation and guidelines | No legislation but all AISWA guidelines are used as a format for this policy. |
| Related Policies | Managing Student Behaviour Policy, Duty of Care, Student Health Care Policy |
| Evaluation | Annual |

| Date | Action (issue, reissue, amendment, replacement of pages, etc) | Initials |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 20/6/00 | Draft | JRE |
| May 02 | Amended | SSW |
| 5/2/09 | Amended | SSW |
| 31/3/10 | Revised | SSW,SPN |
| 25/3/13 | Crest | SPN |
| 16/2/15 | Revised | AFY |
| 03/03/16 | Revised and amended | AFY |
| 05/04/17 | Reviewed and amended | NJE/DLE |

DRUG POLICY

RATIONALE:

People in our society use drugs for both medical and recreational reasons and schools are a subset of society. Geraldton Grammar School has a responsibility to provide students with the skills, knowledge and values to make informed decisions about drug use. We aim to address the drug education needs of our school community through a harm reduction approach to curriculum and welfare.

This school drug policy provides a framework to address alcohol, tobacco and other drug related problems in a caring and consistent manner within the Geraldton Grammar School community.

The policy applies to school visitors and any functions held on school premises, unless otherwise negotiated with the Principal.

This policy is binding on all members of the school community while on school premises or at a school function where students are present. This includes students, staff, parents and volunteers unless previously negotiated with the Principal.

For the purpose of this policy:

1. a drug is defined as any substance with the exception of food and water, which, when taken into the body, alters its function physically or psychologically.
2. parent refers to person responsible for students when not at school ie: parents, guardians and caregivers

AIMS OF THE DRUG POLICY:

1. Promote and maintain a health promoting school environment in which the welfare of all school community members is paramount.
2. Identify the role of Geraldton Grammar School community in the prevention of drug related problems.
3. Document the school community's agreed position on, and accepted procedures for dealing with, drug related incidents and problems.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Incorporate the harm reduction approach to drug education into existing curriculum.
2. Provide appropriate support, assistance and referrals for students with drug related problems.
3. Provide a framework for staff to respond to school based incidents of drug use by students.
4. Provide comprehensive staff education on drug related issues.

GUIDELINES:

1. The school will provide counselling and/or referrals for students with drug related problems.
2. A case management approach involving the Principal and/or Head of School and parents will be used to respond to drug related incidents.
3. Guidelines for dealing with drug related incidents will be given to all staff.

PREVENTION:

The prevention of unsafe and unlawful drug use is a key role of Geraldton Grammar School. The following preventative measure will be implemented:

- A well-resourced, relevant health education program that includes drug education from PrePrimary to year 10.
- Regular reviews to plan and up-date the health and drug education program in personal development programs.
- Professional development for staff teaching health education.
- Involvement of parents and community members in health and drug education programs through information programs using the newsletter, the Student Wellbeing Officer and other resources
- Regular review of this school drug policy.

This policy and the school health education program are consistent with the State Government's policy framework of the Western Australian Strategy Against Drug Abuse and the Health and Physical Education curriculum which stresses the need for a comprehensive approach and emphasises two principles:

- first and foremost, **opposition to drug abuse**, and
- second, **harm reduction**.

INTERVENTION:

Geraldton Grammar School does not permit students travelling on school or public transport, while on school premises, at any school function, excursion or camp to:

- Smoke and/or possess tobacco products
- Consume and/or possess alcohol
- Deliberately inhale volatile substances (solvents)
- Possess and/or use pharmaceutical drugs for non-medical purposes
- Possess and/or use illegal drugs
- Possess and/or use drug-related equipment, such as syringes, or smoking implements such as bongs or pipes (except in the case of lawful medical use)
- Be in the company of students whilst they are involved in the above activities

NOTIFICATION OF PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS:

A nominated member of the administration team (e.g. Administration Assistants, First Aid Officer or key teacher on school camp) should administer and record prescribed medication where there is an agreement between parents and the Principal and where written instructions from the prescribing doctor and the parents have been provided.

If a student is required to carry and self-administer prescribed medicine while at school, the parent must advise the school in writing of all relevant details. For short-term conditions where analgesics are administered by the student, notification of self-medication by the student is still required.

When Panadol (or similar analgesics) is required by the student, referral to signed permission form or parents should be contacted and the administration of the drug be recorded by the front office.

RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS OF DRUG USE

| |
|--|
| <p>In all circumstances the first response will be to establish and respond to the immediate health and welfare of the student and the students around him/her.</p> |
|--|

The procedures outlined below have been developed with the health and welfare of Geraldton Grammar School students in mind. They should be followed where possible and any variations should be discussed with the Principal.

1. Establish and respond to the student's immediate safety. Apply, or organise to apply, first aid where necessary (follow normal school emergency procedures for a medical problem).
2. Accompany the student and take the substances involved immediately to the school administration block. If in a class send a responsible student to administration to seek assistance. Refer the incident immediately to the Principal.
3. The Principal, or delegate, should identify a person to be responsible for managing the incident, to be referred to as the "Incident Manager". The school's Student Welfare Referral Protocols will be enacted. The selection of a support person should take into account issues including ethnicity, language, culture, background and gender of the student (and family) concerned. The Incident Manager may elect to form a small group of people to assist with the management of the incident.
4. The Incident Manager should establish and validate the facts by interviewing relevant staff and students. Questioning should establish the substance and person involved, and where and when the incident occurred.
5. The Incident Manager should document and report the outcomes of the interview to the Principal and discuss appropriate course of action.

Once it has been established that a drug-related incident has occurred, a number of actions can be taken. Actions may vary considerably depending on the details of the incident, including the substance involved, the behavioural history of the student identified as having a part in the incident and the impact of other students.

In all situations it is at the discretion of the Principal to determine the course of action to be taken.

Some suggested actions include:

- **SMOKING**

Geraldton Grammar School views tobacco smoking as a serious offence. There is a range of serious health-related problems associated with smoking. Students who sell or supply tobacco products to other students are committing an offence. If students are found smoking at school, parents will be notified by the appropriate Head of School/Incident Manager. The Principal will be advised and a letter sent home. Students will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action in accordance with the school's Managing Student Behaviour programs.

Contact Quit Line 131 848

Online resource support: <http://www.smarterthansmoking.org.au/>

- **ALCOHOL AND SOLVENTS**

Possession and/or consumption of alcohol or deliberate inhalation of solvents will require the appropriate Head of School/Incident Manager to inform the Principal, contact parents and send a letter home. Students will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action in accordance with the school's Managing Student Behaviour program.

- **ILLCIT DRUGS**

If possession or use of an illicit drug is suspected, the appropriate Head of School/Incident Manager, with the Principal, will ask students to empty the contents of their school bags, pockets, lockers etc. If students refuse to do so, the police may be called. Searches may be undertaken only when a reasonable suspicion exists. It is recommended that, wherever possible, police officers conduct the search.

If possession, use, sale or supply of a prohibited drug is confirmed, the parent will be informed immediately. The Principal will determine if the police will be called. In the absence of a student's parent, the student support person or a teacher nominated by the student will always be present at any police interview that take place on school premises. The student will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action in accordance with the school's Managing Student Behaviour program. If an illicit drug is confiscated, the Principal may call the police to arrange disposal of the drug.

Students who use or supply illicit drugs on campus or on a school excursion or camp will be suspended or expelled immediately.

Further Action

Where appropriate, counselling will be recommended to students. The local Community Drug Service Team, Midwest Alcohol and Drug Service (9956 2424) and/or police may be contacted at this stage. Students will be referred to relevant agencies after discussion between student, the Principal and the parents.

Confidential written records will be maintained by the school about incidents of drug use. If no drug use is detected but strong suspicion exists, it should be reported to the Principal who will keep confidential written notes. Only staff members who need to know will be informed of any incidents of drug use and kept up-to-date with the case. However, if suspension results, all staff will be notified by the Principal. All staff should be reminded that they are required to maintain strict confidentiality.

Notification of Drug-Related Problems

The existing welfare/pastoral care system of Geraldton Grammar School community will be used to assist staff members to identify alcohol, tobacco and other drug-related problems and monitor students where necessary.

When drug use is suspected, the incident should be referred to the Principal. The procedures for reporting drug-related incidents should be applied.

Useful Contacts

Principal
Head of Senior School
Head of Educational Administration
Head of Middle School
Head of Primary
Student Wellbeing Officer
Midwest Community Drug Service (Counselling and Education) 08 9956 2424
Email: mwcdst@health.wa.gov.au
Alcohol and Drug Information Service 9442 5000 Toll-free 1800 198 024
Parent Drug Information Service - 9442 5050 Toll free 1800 653 203
Police Drug and Alcohol Advisors – 9923 4555 (select option 4 for Geraldton Police Station)

DRUGS AND THE LAW

- 1 Student Possession of Illicit Drugs:
In accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act (1981) **schools are under no legal obligation to report possession of an illicit substance to the police.** The decision lies totally with the school Principal.

If a drug is confiscated and held on to, the person confiscating the drug can be deemed to be in possession of an illicit substance. School should nominate 1 or 2 people who can confiscate illegal substances for the purpose of disposal. The illicit drug will be stored in the school safe under the direction from the Principal until disposed of.

- 2 Police Charges:
Individual police officers have the **discretion** to decide **whether or not** to lay charges with regard to an offence, depending on the circumstances.
- 3 Student Possession of Cigarettes:
In accordance with the Tobacco Control Act (1990) it is **illegal** for retailers to **sell cigarettes** to persons under the age of 18 years. It is **not illegal** for persons under the age of 18 to **smoke**. Geraldton Grammar School is a non-smoking venue for students and adults.
- 4 Students Possession and Consumption of Alcohol:

In accordance with the Liquor Licensing Act (1988) it is **illegal** for any person to consume liquor on an unlicensed premises **without** the **consent** of the occupier.

5 Student Use of Solvents:

It is illegal to sell and/or supply a Schedule 6 Poison to persons under 16 years of age. If there are signs that a young person is in “**moral danger**” the police can act under **Section 138B of the WA Child Welfare Act 1947 and Children and Community Services Act 2004**.

6 Search Student Possessions:

Regulation 28 provides that “a teacher has authority to secure the good behaviour of his pupils within the school and in the school playground and when the child comes to or returns from the school.”

Regulation 30 requires proper provisions for the supervision of students.

Regulation 38 authorises teachers to take “such action as is appropriate to prevent or restrain a child from acting in a manner which places at risk the safety of the child, or any other child or a member of staff.”

A teacher is justified, as per regulations above, in taking possession of hazardous objects brought to school by a student. This includes searching bags or lockers where there is reasonable suspicion that such an object is in possession of the student. **Student consent** should be sought at all times but is not necessary if not forthcoming. A **student 18 years or older**, however, may refuse a search, in which case Police assistance should be sought.