



## **Responsible use of Alcohol Policy**

### **Rationale**

Alcohol, although legal, is considered one of the most harmful drugs affecting young people today. Our school has a community responsibility to fully inform our students, staff and whole school community about the effects of alcohol. Alcohol education will sit within the context of our school's drug education program.

Sandringham East Primary School's guiding principle is that there will be no consumption of alcohol at events held on the SEPS grounds in which children are present.

### **Aims**

- To provide accurate information regarding the effects of alcohol on the body.
- To ensure students have the necessary knowledge and skills to make positive informed choices over their use of alcohol in the future.
- To provide opportunities for the broader school community to participate in alcohol education activities.
- To clearly define the processes required when alcohol has been brought on to school property or a student or staff member has attended school clearly under the influence of alcohol.
- To provide an acceptable alcohol-free model for students at school events on school premises when students are present (For example - Welcome Picnic, Carols evening).

### **Implementation**

- There is to be no consumption of alcohol at events held at Sandringham East Primary School in which children are present.
- School Council approval is required before alcohol can be consumed on school premises. School Council must also comply with the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998.
- Fundraising and community events, where students are not present, may be approved by School Council as events where alcohol is consumed.
- Consumption of alcohol at school events held off premises is subject to laws associated with provision of alcohol in public places.
- The consumption of alcohol by staff members on camps or excursions is not acceptable and may compromise a staff member's professional standing, their ability to carry out their duty of care, and/or loss of WorkCover rights.
- Staff members found to be under the influence of alcohol at school or alcohol-free school event will be required to leave the school premises/event and a safe form of transport will be arranged for them. Further disciplinary measures will likely be considered.
- Community members found to be under the influence of alcohol at school or alcohol-free school event will be asked to leave and a safe form of transport will be arranged for them.
- Students are not permitted to bring alcohol on to school grounds under any circumstances, and a suspension from school will be a likely minimum outcome.
- Parents/ guardians of students found consuming alcohol at school or during school functions will be contacted to take their children home. Offending students will likely face suspension as a minimum outcome.

- A reminder of the Alcohol Policy will be included on any publicity information relating to the relevant alcohol-free events (Welcome Picnic, Carols evening etc).

### **Evaluation**

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

Department guidelines can be found at

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/alcohol.aspx>

**This policy was ratified by School Council – September 2017**