

# **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 ensure that all staff members are appropriate role models in regards to the use of alcohol. Alcohol education will sit within the context of our school's drug education program.

## **Aims:**

1. To explain when alcohol can and cannot be consumed:
  - during school hours
  - on school premises
  - at school functions off the school premises
  - during school camps or excursions.
2. To support the health, welfare and safety of all school members.

## **Policy:**

### **Schools must:**

- obtain school council approval before alcohol may be consumed on school premises or at school approved activities
- ensure the legal requirements for the sale and/or provision of alcohol in public situations at school functions are enforced
- prohibit the consumption of alcohol by students at school, or any school organised activity, during school hours
- have a policy and procedures for responding to students who have been drinking during school hours and/or brought alcohol onto school premises
- consider Principle 1.5 of *The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct* which states, 'teachers are always in a professional relationship with the students in their school, whether at school or not; a professional relationship may be compromised if a teacher attends parties or socialises with students.'
- understand the role they have in providing young people with information about the risks associated with the misuse of alcohol.

## **Implementation:**

### **1. During school hours**

Alcohol must not be consumed or brought to school premises during school hours. This includes employees, students, volunteers and visitors and other people who use school premises. On no account is a member of staff to be under the influence of alcohol when working.

Principals must manage incidents involving alcohol consistent with the Code of Conduct and the school's student welfare and discipline policies. The principal should notify police if the source of supply to a student can be identified.

### **2. Functions on school premises outside school hours**

When considering whether to allow the consumption of alcohol on school premises, councils should consider:

- school community attitudes
- the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* from which schools are not exempt
- school policies related to drug education and health and wellbeing

If the school council decides no alcohol is to be consumed, then parents and students should be informed about this in writing when organising and advertising the event.

Examples of the type of applications that the school council may approve are:

- private functions organised by the council if students are not present
- outside organisations hiring or leasing school buildings
- private staff functions which exclude students.

A school function is any function organised by the school and/or in the name of the school and applies to all types of functions including dances, farewells, sporting fixtures and barbecues.

### **3. Functions off school premises**

When alcohol is sold at school functions off premises, students under 18 may only be present if they are:

- accompanied and under direct supervision by parents/guardians or a spouse over the age of 18
- engaged in a hospitality training program, employment or work experience
- approved by the Director of Liquor Licensing under section 122 of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*
- on premises which have an 'on premises' license granted as a restaurant and the function occurs during regular trading hours.

**Note:** A temporary liquor licence is required for events where 'payment' is required to attend the event and the ticket price includes the supply of alcohol and/or over the counter sales.

#### **Important:**

- Social occasions for staff and the school community will be planned to ensure safer drinking.
- Students should not be involved in fundraising events which have an alcoholic beverage as a prize.

### **4. School Camps and Excursions**

This table explains the treatment of alcohol consumption on excursions or school camps:

Who	Rules
Students	Consumption of alcohol is prohibited regardless of the student's age. Offenders will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ sanctioned in accordance with the student engagement policy</li> <li>▪ where appropriate, returned to school or home.</li> </ul>
Staff	Must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ inform parents/guardians and students before departure of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the alcohol prohibition</li> <li>- the sanctions that could be expected for offending</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ act in accordance with their duty of care to students, which is in force during the entire time of the camp or excursion</li> <li>▪ be aware that consumption of alcohol by staff during camps or excursions is:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inconsistent with the standard of professional conduct necessary to maintain community confidence in these activities</li> <li>- is considered unwise</li> <li>- could lead to allegations of negligence and loss of WorkCover rights.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### **5. Student education**

Alcohol education activities will be provided, ensuring age appropriateness, as part of our school's drug education program.

Where appropriate, our school will access agencies within our local community with expertise in the field of alcohol education to participate in classes eg. Local police, Community Health Service, Drug & Alcohol counsellors.

### **6. Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed with parent and community input as part of the school's three-year review.

#### **References:**

- *The School Policy and Advisory Guide – Alcohol*

- *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*
- *The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct*
- *Department Occupational Health & Safety Policy*
- *Drug Education – Policy for Principals and School Leaders*