Drug Education Policy

(i) Introduction
Salesian College is committed to caring for the emotional and physical well being of students in its care. To this end, the College has a Drug Education Program that aims to minimise harm by providing a supportive environment in which skills are developed that equip students to deal with drug-related issues. This document is informed by our Pastoral Care Policy and Code of Behaviour.

(ii) Principles
The Salesian College Drug Education Program will:
1. Promote the physical, social and emotional well being of each child to help reduce substance misuse.
2. Acknowledge that drug education is a shared responsibility between home, school and community.
3. Have an emphasis on harm minimisation.
4. Utilise a range of approaches in both the curriculum and pastoral areas.
5. Be consistent with the guidelines produced by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria and the appropriate government agencies.

(iii) Expectations
At Salesian College we will:
1. Establish a core group responsible for the coordination and implementation of a Drug Education Program.
2. Ensure a variety of teaching and learning strategies support the curriculum at each level.
3. Identify programs which inform and support students, parents and other family members.
4. Ensure that staff participate in appropriately planned professional development.
5. Ensure staff, parents and students are informed about the program.
6. Ensure that a comprehensive welfare support structure is established and maintained.

(iv) Review
This policy will be reviewed from time to time as required.
Drug Education Guidelines and Procedures

Program Development
1. A core group, consisting of the Deputy Principal – Student Services, the Director of Student Wellbeing, the College Counsellor, a representative from the Student Services Team and a representative from the Department of Health and Human Development, will be established.

2. This group will meet to develop and implement the program.

Curriculum
1. A curriculum framework will be developed from Years 7 – 12 which will ensure that age appropriate topics and activities will be provided for all students at the College.

2. This framework will be developed in conjunction with the Religious Education Department, the Health and Human Development Department, the Student Services Team and the College Counsellor.

3. The curriculum will be supported by a variety of teaching and learning strategies that will:
   - 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 student understanding of the continuum of risk associated with drug use. This continuum is determined by the drugs used, the context in which they are used and the people involved.
   - increase student knowledge and skills to enable them to contribute to the public debate about drug-related issues.

Professional Development
1. Ongoing professional development will be provided to ensure that staff have access to curriculum materials and teaching strategies to enable them to deliver the program.

2. Suitable teaching resources will be purchased to enable teachers to offer relevant and supportive drug education classroom programs and support to students within the classroom.

3. Appropriate welfare professionals will be accessed when specialised support is required.
**Communication**
Guidelines and procedures will be clearly and regularly communicated to staff, parents and students via:

1. Newsletters, noticeboard displays and publications of procedures, particularly in the College Study Planner.

2. Meetings, working parties and information sessions.

3. Classroom activities and Student Leadership Team consultation.

4. An induction program for those new to the school.

**Protocols**
A series of Procedures will be developed in accordance with the Pastoral Care Policy and the College Code of Behaviour which will set out procedures when:

1. Police are involved in a drug-related issue.

2. Members of outside support agencies and services are involved in a drug-related issue.

3. Handling the media in the event of drug-related issues.

These procedures will be enacted on the advice of the Principal, or nominee.