

## Drug, Alcohol and Smoking Policy

### DRUGS

#### PURPOSE

To ensure there is no recreational and/or illicit drug use at Skipton Primary School.

#### POLICY

Skipton Primary School has a zero tolerance for any recreational and/or illicit drug use by staff, students or parents/carers within school grounds or at school events (either on or off premises), regardless of student attendance.

Medicinal Drugs are covered off in the Skipton Primary School First Aid Policy.

Students found in possession of drugs, or reasonably suspected to be under the influence, will be sent home immediately. Further disciplinary action may be taken at the principal's discretion.

### ALCOHOL

#### PURPOSE

To explain when alcohol can and cannot be consumed:

- on school premises
- at school functions off the school premises
- during school hours
- during school camps or excursions.

#### POLICY

Skipton Primary School 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, and
- have a policy and procedures for responding to students who have been drinking during school hours and/or brought alcohol onto school premises.

**Note:** If school council approves the consumption of alcohol on school premises, they must ensure adherence to the responsible service of alcohol requirements.

#### Functions on school premises

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

- the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 from which schools are not exempt,
- school community attitudes, and

- school policies related to drug education and health and wellbeing.

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, and
- private staff functions which exclude students.

### Functions off school premises

If students are present at an off-campus function, alcohol must not be available.

### During school hours

Students who have been drinking during school hours or brought alcohol onto school premises will be sent home immediately. The principal will determine the appropriate response to such incidents at the time of the infringement. The principal shall notify police if the source of supply, such as a retailer, can be identified.

### School camps and excursions

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

Consumption of alcohol is prohibited regardless of the student's age. Offenders will be:

- sanctioned in accordance with the student engagement policy or
- where appropriate, returned to school or home.

Staff must:

- inform parents/guardians and students before departure of:
  - the alcohol prohibition, or
  - the sanctions that could be expected for offending
- act in accordance with their duty of care to students, which is in force during the entire time of the camp or excursion, be aware that consumption of alcohol by staff during camps or excursions is:
  - inconsistent with the standard of professional conduct necessary to maintain community confidence in these activities,
  - is considered unwise, and
  - could lead to allegations of negligence and loss of WorkCover rights.

## SMOKING

### PURPOSE

To ensure there is no smoking on school grounds and near school entrances.

### POLICY

Skipton Primary School must erect no-smoking signs (legislative requirement) and enforce the ban to prohibit smoking on school grounds and within four metres of school entrances (as outlined in a 2015 amendment in the Tobacco Act 1987), and 10 metres of playground areas (this is inclusive of all school grounds).

The smoking ban applies to:

- anyone present on school premises during and after school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents/guardians or the wider community, such as sporting groups, and
- all activities that take place on school premises including pre-schools, kindergartens, outside school hours care, cultural, sporting or recreational activities and school fetes, and
- all school activities outside school grounds where students are present eg. sporting events in Ballarat, visits to museums etc.

## Electronic cigarettes

E-cigarettes are electronic devices which heat and vaporise liquids that may or may not contain nicotine and/or flavouring agents. The vapour is inhaled, simulating the act of smoking.

It is illegal to obtain, possess or use e-cigarettes, or their cartridges, which contain nicotine in Victoria. On this basis students, teachers and employees of the Department are banned from possessing or using e-cigarettes, or their cartridges, containing nicotine on school grounds.

Skipton Primary School prohibits the use of all e-cigarettes, nicotine based or otherwise.

## Actions required

The Principal shall:

- Install No Smoking signs at each entrance of the school premises,
- communicate the ban to:
  - department employees,
  - parents/guardians via the school newsletter, and
  - new students and parents/guardians during the enrolment process.
- remind the school community that smoking is always discouraged.

## REVIEW CYCLE

This policy will be reviewed every 3-4 years.