



## What are the rules regarding drugs at school?

Smoking on school premises is banned at all times. This includes all school buildings, gardens, sports fields and car parks.

Alcohol must not be consumed or brought to the school during school hours. This includes staff, students and visitors. Alcohol is also not permitted at any school function, such as dances and farewells, whenever students from any school are present.

Principals will suspend any student who possesses or uses a suspected illegal substance at school. Students who assist other students to obtain illegal substances or supply restricted substances will also be suspended.

School counsellors can assist students who may be having problems with drugs. If a student is suspended for drugs at school, counselling and other support is available.

Schools have rules about drugs. These include the use and storage of medicines when children need to take them during the school day. It is important that parents are aware of these rules.

## Contacts and support

If parents have concerns about drugs and drug use they can contact:

- the principal or counsellor at the school
- the local area health centre
- Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)  
Confidential advice and facts about drugs.  
Toll free: 1800 422 599  
Tel: 02 9361 8000
- Parent line  
Advice on how to talk to young people about drug use and other issues.  
Toll free: 13 20 55
- Aboriginal Legal Service  
Legal advice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.  
Tel: 02 9318 2122
- Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre (DAMEC)  
Information for culturally and linguistically diverse communities.  
Tel: 02 9699 3552  
[www.damec.org.au](http://www.damec.org.au)
- LawAccess NSW  
Access to legal and related assistance services in NSW.  
Toll free: 1300 888 529  
[www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au)

### For assistance in languages other than English contact:

- Translating and Interpreting Service  
Tel: 13 14 50

### Further information

- NSW Department of Education and Training  
[www.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au)  
Information to assist parents and students in government schools.
- NSW Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy  
[www.druginfo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.druginfo.nsw.gov.au)  
Provides links to a variety of information regarding resources, law, education, treatment and other areas.
- d!@y!l (Drug Information at Your Local Library)  
<http://diyil.d.nsw.gov.au>  
NSW public libraries have a collection of drug information resources.

### Emergency telephone numbers

- Emergency: 000 (Ambulance, Police, Fire)
- Poisons Information Centre: 13 11 26



# Drug education in secondary schools





### Why have drug education in secondary schools?

As young people are growing up they face a number of challenges, such as making decisions about drug use. Young people learn about drugs such as medicines, alcohol and tobacco by watching what people do and listening to what they say. The internet, TV, magazines and movies also expose young people to various drug issues.

In drug education lessons, young people receive up-to-date information about drugs in a safe and caring setting. Students learn about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and practise skills that help them stay safe.

### What is a drug?

Generally, a drug is a substance that can change how the body and mind work. All drugs, whether legal or illegal, can cause harm.

Legal drugs include alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and medications. Some legal drugs have restrictions placed on them that make their sale or use illegal. For example, it is illegal to supply alcohol to people under the age of 18. Illegal drugs include cannabis, ecstasy and amphetamines.

Certain substances, such as aerosols, some glues and petrol, can cause intoxication when the fumes, sprays or gases are inhaled. This can be very harmful.

### What is taught?

In Years 7-10, drug education is taught in Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) lessons. Students:

- build on what they have learnt in primary school
- learn about consequences of legal drugs such as the effects on a person's health, relationships and the community
- discuss reasons why people use and do not use drugs, including cultural or religious beliefs
- learn about cannabis and other illegal drugs
- analyse the influence of the media, for example, how the placement and use of alcohol and tobacco products on TV, in movies and advertisements influence people's behaviours and attitudes
- discuss the laws on drugs, including driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
- practise skills to help them stay safe, for example, how to say no if they are offered a drug or how to avoid getting into a car with a driver who is affected by alcohol or other drugs
- practise ways to respond to emergency situations
- identify support networks and agencies within their community.

In Years 11 and 12, students participate in *Crossroads: A Personal Development and Health Education Course for Stage 6* which encourages young people to:

- discuss issues that are important to them, such as safe parties and celebrations, responsible behaviour surrounding drug use, and the possible consequences of combining drugs
- develop skills for managing issues that they may face in adult life, such as the effects of drug use on relationships, employment and the community.

Contact your school to find out more about your school's drug education program.

### How can parents be involved?

By working together, parents and schools can teach young people about the potential dangers of drugs. It is important that teachers, parents and students talk about what is appropriate in their school's drug education program. This will help meet the needs of the students and school community in relation to drug education.

Parents need to talk honestly about drug issues with their children. It is important to listen carefully to what children say. Parents are invited to discuss any concerns they may have with the school.

