

Drug Policy

Clarke Creek State School

2003

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What is Drug Education?

Education Queensland defines drug education in schools as the educational programs, policies, guidelines and procedures that contribute to the achievement of the broader public health goals of preventing and reducing drug related harm to individuals and society.

Drug Education within the classroom consists of set lessons, programs, activities and practices that lead to the achievement of educational outcomes that relate to reducing drug harm for individuals and society. The school drug education program can be described as the collection of these educational outcomes sequenced over the years of compulsory schooling.

Situational Analysis of Clarke Creek State School

At Clarke Creek State School the community believes that at the present time the students are not exposed to drugs due to its isolated surroundings. However, we believe that by educating the students at the school they will become better prepared in their later life when they may be exposed to drugs.

Clarke Creek State School accepts the responsibility for educational outcomes of students in this school that contribute to the public health goals of preventing and reducing drug related harm to individuals and the community.

The primary role of Clarke Creek State School is to impart knowledge, skills and a sound values base in relation to health and drug use, not to change behaviors that may be determined by factors beyond the influence of the school.

Objectives:

The objectives of this policy and its related guidelines are to:

1. Ensure students, throughout their time at Clarke Creek State School, have access to drug education which has clearly defined educational outcomes
2. Define the role and responsibilities of Clarke Creek State School for a collaborative, coordinated approach to drug education in the context of the school
3. Provide prevention programs based on accepted principles, and intervention practices that include referral, counseling and procedures for managing drug related incidents.

Principles for Drug Education in Clarke Creek State School

1. Drug education is best taught in the context of the H & PE curriculum.
2. Drug education in Clarke Creek State School should be conducted by the teacher of the health curriculum
3. Drug education programs should have sequence, progression and continuity over time throughout students' schooling.
4. Drug education messages across the school environment should be consistent and coherent.
5. Drug education programs and resources should be selected to complement the role of the classroom teacher with external resources enhancing not replacing that role.
6. Approaches to drug education should address the values, attitudes and behaviours of the community and the individual.
7. Drug education needs to be based on research, effective curriculum practice and identified student needs.
8. Objectives for drug education in schools should be linked to the overall goal of harm minimisation.
9. Drug education strategies should be related directly to the achievement of the program objectives.

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10. The emphasis of drug education should be on drug use likely to occur in the target group, and use which causes the most harm to the individual and society.
11. Effective drug education should reflect an understanding of characteristics of the individual, the social context, the drug, and the interrelationship of these factors
12. Drug education programs should respond to developmental, gender, cultural, language, socio-economic and lifestyle differences relevant to the level of student drug use.
13. The achievement of drug education objectives, processes and outcomes should be evaluated.

Roles & Responsibilities of Clarke Creek State School

Clarke Creek State School must:

1. Implement drug education programs within appropriate curriculum areas.
2. Incorporate statements in long term planning and reporting process about drug education and intervention.
3. Inform the school community of drug education programs and procedures
4. Report on policy implementation and the achievement of educational outcomes related to minimising drug related harm.
5. Provide professional development opportunities that assist teachers to achieve drug-related outcomes.

Intervention Strategies

Intervention Strategies for suspected substances :

- 1) Identify student at risk and notify appropriate personnel (Principal)
- 2) Notify support personnel (Guidance Officer) and explain the facts and ask them for their assistance
- 3) Organise a meeting with student discussing what has occurred and offer them counseling / advice and support
- 4) Organise a meeting with parents and student to discuss the issues
- 5) Monitor students progress through guidance officer support
- 6) Maintain open contact with parents about students progress

If progress doesn't improve, issue student with one warning - if it persists

- 1) Suspension from classroom (Appendix A - Intervention Short term)
- 2) Suspension from school (1 week) (Appendix B - Intervention Medium Term)
- 3) Exclusion -(Appendix C - Intervention - Long term 7 - 90 days)

Curriculum

Drug education is included in the H.P.E Curriculum at Clarke Creek State School through open discussion with the students and teaching the following modules.

Level 1 - Let's be healthy

Level 3 - Smoke Signals

Level 4/5 - Drugs: Dilemmas & Decisions

Newsletters & Reports

Throughout the year, information will be placed in the newsletter about drug education to inform the community

Within the monthly P&C meetings, the principal will keep community members informed about drug education.

Resources

HPE Modules

Education Queensland - drug education

http://www.education.qld.gov.au/health-safety/promotion/drug-education/html/p_harmmin.htm

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Appendices:

Overview

Appendix A - Intervention Short term

Appendix B - Intervention Medium Term

Appendix C - Intervention Long term 7-90 days