(10) - SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

The Beehive Montessori School Inc. is committed to maintaining ZERO TOLERANCE to substance abuse within the School grounds.

The use, possession and/or distribution of illicit drugs and the unsanctioned use and distribution of drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs are not accepted, and will be dealt with as a health issue as well as upholding the expectations and obligations of the School's related policies and procedures and state and federal laws.

Rationale

The Beehive Montessori School is committed to maintaining a safe, secure and supportive environment for its community and recognises that student engagement in learning is likely to minimise substance abuse and other risk taking behaviour. Substances includes illicit and prescription drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Objective

Abuse of substances is not permitted anywhere on the School property by students, adults or visitors, and the School will intervene if it occurs.

The School will:
- provide a healthy, safe, secure and supportive school environment free of illegal drugs
- take positive action to deter any use of any prohibited substance by including health and drug education in the curriculum
- value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives
- foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose issues related to their health and wellbeing
Links to School and Constitution

The Constitution upholds the rights and education of young people in accordance with the educational methods created by Dr. Montessori which aim at developing the self-reliance and the personality of young people.

Levels of Responsibility

The School Board is responsible for:
- developing and adopting the policy.
- ensuring that all measures have been adopted by the Principal and staff.

The Principal is responsible for:
- the health, safety and wellbeing of students at the School.
- school community awareness of zero tolerance towards the possession and use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and the misuse of over the counter and prescribed medications, including the supply of restricted substances, on School premises by students, employees and visitors.
- ensuring the health curriculum includes relevant drug education lessons.
- empowering students to deal with and report matters which relate to their health and wellbeing.
- following the procedures outlined below in the event of suspected or evident substance abuse.

The Assistant Principals are responsible for:
- the health, safety and wellbeing of students at the School.
- those duties as delegated by the Principal.
- vigilance and assisting the Principal to promote awareness of zero tolerance towards the possession and use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and the misuse of over the counter and prescribed medications, including the supply of restricted substances, on School premises by students, employees and visitors.

The Staff are responsible for:
- providing a safe, secure and supportive environment.
- empowering students to deal with and report matters which affect their health and wellbeing.
- enacting their ‘duty of care’ responsibilities in dealing with all forms of abuse, bullying and drug use and reporting as necessary.
- incorporating health and drug education lessons as part of the school curriculum

Procedures

All matters pertaining to this issue will be strongly dealt with by the Principal and the School Board as outlined below:

The Principal or delegate will:

- ensure that investigation of allegations is initiated to determine whether:
  - drugs have been or are being used
  - students are or have been in possession of drugs or instruments used with drugs
  - students are or have been present when drugs are being used by others
- manage incidents according to the School's Code of Conduct
  - consequences may vary and will depend on the nature of the situation, its potential for harm and the circumstances of the individual students involved
- contact parents in the event of suspected possession, use or distribution of drugs
- inform Police and other relevant agencies in the event of suspected possession, use or distribution of: illicit drugs, drug paraphernalia, illegal behavior involving legal substances, or when an unidentified substance is suspected of being a drug.

Related Documents

- Code of Conduct
- Child Conduct Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Health Policy
- Workplace Safety and Health Policy