Rationale

* School drug education aims to prevent harmful drug use, illicit drug use, inappropriate alcohol consumption and solvent use.
* School drug education utilises a whole school approach to health promotion, prevention and early intervention to the wellbeing and engagement of children, based on the principles of harm minimisation. It aims to promote resilience, and build on knowledge, skills and behaviours to enable children to make responsible, healthy and safe choices. It encompasses all policies, practices, programs and initiatives connected with prevention and reduction of drug-related harm, and the building of resilience in individuals and school communities.
* Schools should implement relevant and comprehensive drug education for all children as an ongoing core component of the curriculum.

Purpose

* To support a whole school approach to reducing drug use and associated harm.
* To provide support for children involved in unsanctioned drug use.
* To ensure Charles La Trobe College complies with legislation and DET policy in relation to drug education.
* To ensure the College complies with the Child Safe Standards 1 and 2.

Implementation

* The safety and wellbeing of children is the highest priority for the College.
* The school will provide all children with a comprehensive, age appropriate drug education prevention and intervention program embedded across all AusVELS curriculum areas.
* The school will involve parents/guardians and the wider school community in drug-related curriculum and wellbeing issues.
* The possession, use, distribution or selling of illicit drugs will be prohibited.
* Drug Education will focus on a harm minimisation model i.e. prevent and reduce drug related harm.
* All staff have a duty of care to report to the Principal all cases involving drug and alcohol use, whether self-disclosed, reported or discovered.
* If a drug-related incident occurs:
* the primary focus will be on child safety and wellbeing including whether the child requires medical attention
* relevant facts will be gathered and if required, the drugs collected
* when safe to do so the parent/carers will be advised along with health, community and welfare services and if necessary, the police
* a case management team will be established to monitor and support the child in the longer term
* if deemed appropriate and with due regard for the child’s privacy, the community may be advised of the incident this policy will be reviewed
* A case management team will be established to monitor and support the child in the longer term.
* Any child who is absent from school due to drug use or the resultant treatment should be provided with an Absence Learning Plan as determined by teachers in consultation with parents / guardians and the school’s appointed case manager.
* The school will have procedures in place for dealing with the media.  Principals are responsible for media contact, supported by the regional director and Department Media Unit (03) 9637-2871.
* If deemed appropriate and with due regard for the child’s privacy, the community may be advised of the incident.
* Please refer also to the *school’s Duty of Care Policy,* the *Banning, Searching & Seizure Policy,* the *Wellbeing & Learning Policy,* and the *Student Engagement Policy*.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update early September 2014).

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the College Council on 15th February, 2018.

References:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/drugprevention.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/drugprevention.aspx)

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/druguse.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/druguse.aspx)