



<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Illicit Drug and Alcohol Policy</b>
<b>Related Policies and Legislation</b>	
<b>Policy Category</b>	Student Safety & Wellbeing Staff Safety & Wellbeing
<b>Relevant Audience</b>	All Treetops Community
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<b>Person/s Responsible for Review</b>	Treetops Administration

## **Illicit Drug and Alcohol Policy**

Using drugs (for other than medical reasons) and alcohol is a potential health hazard. This Illicit Drug and Alcohol Policy has been established to ensure that the students attending Treetops Montessori School will be educated in an illicit drug and alcohol free environment.

### **School Locations Prohibited for the Use of Illicit Drugs and Alcohol**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear message to students, parents and the members of the community that use, possession, distribution, sale of, or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs or look alike drugs, as defined in Western Australian Misuse of Drugs Act, will not be tolerated in school buildings, on school property or at school sponsored events at which students are present. The only exception to this policy is the sale and consumption of alcohol by legal adults at school sponsored events where an appropriate licence has been obtained and an appropriate area set aside, as per the licence agreement. This policy extends to all school sponsored or related activities whether held on school property or at locations off school property, including private clubs, business or commercial establishments.

### **Drug and Alcohol Education**

The school recognises its responsibility to provide a programme of drug and alcohol education so that all students are made aware of the physical and psychological dangers incurred through the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Furthermore, the school system will make available, without sanctions, assistance to any student seeking drug and alcohol treatment or advice and will protect, in accordance with the law, the due process rights of all students within the school setting.

### **Duty of Care**

Teachers have a positive duty of care to prevent injury. For this reason, they must advise the Principal if a student tells them that they are using illicit drugs. However, for all teachers it is important to be familiar with the exact procedure which needs to be followed. If a student does disclose illicit drug use to a teacher, the teacher should support the student throughout the process of having to inform the Principal. It is particularly important to maintain the trust of the student.

- The teacher should be honest with the student about the process and explain that the procedure is only being followed as they care for the student and their well-being.
- The need to maintain the student's trust and to be honest about the process must be gauged against the need to protect a student from harming him or her self. If a teacher is concerned that a student may self-harm, it is particularly important that the student be supervised throughout the process of informing the Principal.
- The capacity to maintain a good relationship with the student may not always be possible. However, a teacher may be reassured that in most cases, by informing the Principal, they will have acted in the best interests of the child's welfare and fulfilled their responsibility under their duty of care.

### **Consequence for Violating the Policy**

Once it has been determined that a student has used, possessed, distributed or sold drugs or alcohol in school buildings, on school property or at school sponsored events, or is under the influence of drugs or alcohol in school buildings, on school property or at school sponsored events the process for the *first* offence shall be:

- The student's parent/guardian will be called to remove him or her immediately from the school property.
- The student's parents/guardians will be asked to meet the Principal to determine whether subsequent return to school will occur.
- In the event of distribution or selling of illicit drugs, the police will be notified promptly of the offence by means of a complete report prepared by the Principal, which will include a description of the substance plus any physical evidence obtained.

The consequence for students violating this policy shall be:

1. Suspension from school for at least 5 days.
2. Forfeiture of the privilege of participating in all extracurricular school activities, for a period of six months from the date of the offence, including school camps.
3. The requirement to complete a structured research project on the adverse affects of illicit drugs and/or alcohol.

A repeat offence will result in expulsion.