

# Policy Alcohol

## RATIONALE

Echuca Primary School is a place for children's learning and development. The academic, social, emotional and physical development of children as global, responsible citizens is at the core of the school's focus. Therefore, the school has a moral and ethical obligation to promote high levels of conduct, standards and expectations of all its members.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline when alcohol can and cannot be consumed on school premises, at school functions off school premises, during school hours, and during school camps, excursions or activities. This policy has been developed in relation to the *Victorian Department of Education and Training* policies, and the following legislation: *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*, and the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Schools must:

- obtain School Council approval before alcohol may be consumed on school premises or at school approved activities
- If school council approves the consumption of alcohol on school premises they must ensure adherence to the responsible service of alcohol requirements
- ensure the legal requirements for the sale and/or provision of alcohol in public situations at school functions are enforced
- prohibit the consumption of alcohol by students at school, or any school organised activity, during school hours
- have a policy and procedures for responding to students who have been drinking during school hours and/or brought alcohol onto school premises
- consider Principle 1.5 of The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct which states, 'teachers are always in a professional relationship with the students in their school, whether at school or not; a professional relationship may be compromised if a teacher attends parties or socialises with students.'
- understand the role they have in providing young people with information about the risks associated with the misuse of alcohol.

### During school hours

Alcohol must not be consumed or brought to school premises during school hours. This includes employees, students, volunteers and visitors and other people who use school premises. On no account is a member of staff to be under the influence of alcohol when working.

Principals must manage incidents involving alcohol consistent with the Code of Conduct and the school's student welfare and discipline policies. The Principal should notify police if the source of supply to a student can be identified.

### Functions on school premises outside school hours

When considering whether to allow the consumption of alcohol on school premises, councils should consider:

- school community attitudes

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- the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 from which schools are not exempt
- school policies related to drug education and health and wellbeing
- If the School Council decides no alcohol is to be consumed, then parents and students should be informed about this in writing when organising and advertising the event.
- Examples of the type of applications that the school council may approve are:
- private functions organised by the council if students are not present
- outside organisations hiring or leasing school buildings
- private staff functions which exclude students.

A school function is any function organised by the school and/or in the name of the school and applies to all types of functions including dances, farewells, sporting fixtures and barbecues.

## ***Functions off school premises***

When alcohol is sold at school functions off premises, students under 18 may only be present if they are:

- Accompanied and under direct supervision by parents/guardians or a spouse over the age of 18
- Approved by the Director of Liquor Licensing under section 122 of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*
- On premises that have an 'on premises' license granted as a restaurant and the function occurs during regular trading hours
- Attending a function as approved by Liquor Licensing Victoria taking into account the above requirements

**Note:** A temporary liquor licence is required for events where 'payment' is required to attend the event and the ticket price includes the supply of alcohol and/or over the counter sales.

## ***Work Functions***

Echuca Primary School encourages responsible alcohol consumption at work functions held outside of normal operating hours. Staff are expected to maintain the usual standards of behaviour expected during operating hours (see Code of Conduct)

Staff must ensure that they arrange a 'designated driver' or public transport to commute home.

Echuca Primary School does not condone driving under the influence of alcohol under any circumstances.

## **Important:**

Students should not be involved in fundraising events which have an alcoholic beverage as a prize. Social occasions for staff and the school community will be planned to ensure safe consumption of alcohol.

## ***During school hours***

It is the role of the Principal acting in accord with the school's Student Engagement and Drug Education policies, to determine how to respond to students who have:

- Been drinking during school hours
- Brought alcohol onto school premises

Such incidents will be treated very serious, and the Victorian Police may be notified.

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## ***School camps, excursions and activities***

- The consumption of alcohol on school camps and excursions by students is prohibited regardless of the student's age. Offenders will be sanctioned in accordance with the Student Engagement Policy and where appropriate, returned to school or home.
- Before each camp, excursion and activity where students are present, staff will be made aware of the following:
  - To act in accordance with their duty of care to students, which is in force during the entire time of the camp, excursion or activity
  - Be aware that the consumption of alcohol by staff during camps, excursions and activities are inconsistent with the standard of professional conduct necessary to maintain community confidence in these activities and a duty of care to all and is considered unwise. This could lead to allegations of negligence and loss of WorkCover rights.

## **5. Student Education**

- Alcohol education activities will be provided, ensuring age appropriateness, as part of our school's drug education program.
- Where appropriate, our school will access agencies within our local community with expertise in the field of alcohol education to participate in classes eg. Local police, Community Health Service, Drug & Alcohol counsellors.

## **6. Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on -

## **References:**

The School Policy and Advisory Guide – Alcohol

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/alcohol.aspx>

Liquor Control Reform Act 1998

The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct

Department Occupational Health & Safety Policy ☒

Drug Education – Policy for Principals and School Leaders

This Policy was ratified at School Council on : **17<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

This policy will be reviewed every three years