Aims:

- To support the implementation of a drug education program, that enables students to acquire age appropriate skills, knowledge, values and beliefs to make informed decisions about drug related issues.

- To deliver a drug education program that is based on the principles of harm minimisation and resilience.

Rationale:

- The four year work plan, together with a clear policy to manage drug related incidents will contribute to improved health outcomes for students. The policy takes into account the relationship between people, drug use and the environment in which drugs are used. The principles of harm minimisation will underpin the drug education program and address the social and cultural context of the school. Outcomes will include abstinence or prevention of drug use, reduced or controlled use, safer administration or reduction of the harmful consequences of drug use within the community.

Strategies:

- The Drug Related Student Welfare goals will address the wellbeing of students ranging from prevention to early intervention.

- The strategic Drug Education Plan and the ‘Principles for School Drug Education,’ (2004, 2005) will provide a framework for the co-ordination of resources and expertise to support a whole school approach to drug education.

- Drug Education will be taught in the context of the school health curriculum. Drug education will occur when children learn about drugs and drug use through a formal program. Drug related topics will be covered in the school’s scope and sequence.
Guidelines:

1. Preventive programs with a health focus will be implemented.
2. Any students with drug-related problems will be identified and supported.
3. Staff will respond to issues arising from drug-related critical incidents.
4. The Health curriculum will provide meaningful, accurate and up to date information on drugs and related issues.
5. The drug education program is based on the principles of the harm minimisation approach.
6. Children with special health care needs or at risk will be identified and individual strategies for ongoing management or emergencies set in place.
7. Teachers will provide a supportive environment for students through Welfare and Behaviour Management policies.
8. The Welfare Co-ordinator will act as the liaison person with relevant personnel for extra guidance and assistance.
9. In the event of a serious drug-related incident, the teacher in charge will:
   - Establish the related facts
   - Summon First Aid where appropriate
   - Take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the person involved and others
10. Teachers will inform and consult with the Welfare Officer and the school’s administration team and refer to the drug related incidents plan, when involved in a drug related incident.
11. Discarded needles/syringes will be disposed of by adults only. Pick up the syringe by the barrel. Put needle/syringe in sharps container. Contact Council for instructions on disposal.
12. In the event of a needle stick injury, encourage wound to bleed by gently squeezing, wash area with warm, soapy water, apply antiseptic and cover, seek further medical advice. Wear disposable gloves during this process.

Evaluation:

- Use of school level data and other survey tools such as Drug Education Evaluation and Monitoring (DEEM) and Principles of Learning and Teaching (POLT)