

ITEM DRUG TAKING BY STUDENTS

POLICY Where reasonable evidence exists that students at school have been involved in drug taking, parents should be notified. Students should be offered counselling if a problem exists.

The possession or use of drugs by students is regarded as a serious breach of discipline and may constitute grounds for suspension under Section 27 of the *Education Act*.

Information concerning drug taking should be reported in confidence to the Police, who have the responsibility of deciding whether to take action. The parents should be informed that this is being done.

Rumours of drug taking should be followed up to ascertain whether there is any factual basis. Principals should remind members of the community, when appropriate, that the repetition of rumours based on hearsay is destructive of public confidence and does no service to students. Principals should be prepared to consider only charges based on fact.

Principals are recommended to read and make available to relevant staff *Schools and Drugs: Some Guidelines* published by the Education Department of South Australia.

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