POLICY TITLE: Alcohol Policy
DATE RATIFIED: December 2011
REVIEW DATE: December 2014

RATIONALE
Essendon North 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 Early Childhood Development’s policies, and the following legislation: Education and Training Reform Act 2006, and the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998.

IMPLEMENTATION
The school and community members of Essendon North Primary School will:

- Obtain school council approval before alcohol is consumed on school premises
- 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

If school council approves the consumption of alcohol on school premises, the council will ensure adherence to the responsible service of alcohol requirements as per the Department of Justice’s Licensee Obligations.

1. Functions on school premises
When considering whether to allow the consumption of alcohol on school premises, the school council will consider:

- The Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 from which schools are not exempt
- School community attitudes
- School policies related to drug education, and health and wellbeing.

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
2. **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

3. **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.

4. **School camps, excursions and activities**  
The consumption of alcohol on school camps and excursions by students is prohibited.

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
- That the consumption of alcohol 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 students
  - Is considered unwise
  - Could lead to allegations of negligence and loss of WorkCover rights

**EVALUATION**  
The school’s Alcohol Policy will be reviewed in 2014.