Rationale
Self-harm is any deliberate, non-suicidal behaviour that inflicts physical harm on one’s own body and is aimed at relieving emotional distress. People from all family backgrounds, religions, cultures and demographic groups may self harm.

Goals
- To provide appropriate strategies, guidelines and support to staff for managing incidents of student self-harm
- To provide support appropriate to the individual needs of students
- To prevent and minimise the contagion effect of self-harm within the school.

Guidelines
- Follow the SAFEMinds Flowchart when responding to incidents of self-harm at school. Provide ongoing support to the child or young person and the broader school community. (Appendix A)

- If there is a medical emergency, call for an ambulance and notify a member of the leadership team

- Keep the child or young person safe and minimise exposure to other students

- A harm minimisation approach (safety as a priority, hygienic wound care; keeping wounds covered) is best in a school setting

- Staff should respond to common or non-emergency self-harm with a low-key, dispassionate demeanour and respectful curiosity

- If minor first aid is required, the student is to apply this themselves under supervision

- To manage possible contagion effects, students are asked to not discuss or communicate, including on social media, about self-harm. If they have already used social media to communicate their self-harm, they will be asked to remove any relevant photos or messages

- Students who have self-harmed will be asked to cover any wounds until they have healed

- Contact parents/carers unless there are protective issues.

- Follow the Emergency Management reporting protocol when required – Tel: 9589 6266

- Ensure that staff and the school community are familiar with the SAFEMinds resources and the school staff undertake annual professional development regarding self-harm management

- Staff will be referred to the Employee Assistance Program as required

https://www.google.com.au/aclk?sa=L&ei=DChcSEWiz0cT6v9bPAhXFxn4KHeVzDz oYABAG&ei=99H-V9HhA6bj0gLsuZHgBA&sig=AOD64_2v7DO6BeybXUaacOF51R8u7vB_8A&q=&sqi=2&ved=0ahUKEwiRucD6v9bPAhWmsVQKHexcBEwQ0QwlKQ&adurl=
Appendix A:

SAFEMinds
Responding to Self H:

References:
SAFEMinds Resource (DET 2016)

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s 3 year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council  on 26th October 2016

Signed:

[Signature]

Paul Rumpff
School Council President