

## Sharps/Used Condoms

Unfortunately the presence of syringes and used condoms are becoming a more common occurrence in our school grounds and pose a threat to health. If staff find a syringe / needle / sharp object, these following procedures should be used.

Equipment:

- Rubber gloves.
- “Sharps” disposal container (located in the office).

Safe Disposal Procedures:

- Take care not to prick yourself with the needle or sharp object.
- Put on gloves.
- Do not recap a needle under any circumstances.
- If an approved “Sharps” bin is not available, find a rigid container with a secure lid. Do not use glass or aluminium drink containers.
- Bring the disposal container to the needle / syringe.
- Remove the lid of the container.
- Place the container on the ground with the lid off.
- The container must NOT be held upright while disposing of the needle.
- While it is recommended that gloves be used, it is safe to directly handle a used needle or syringe with intact, bare skin.
- Do NOT use tongs or other rigid implements as they have the potential to cause the needle to flick away and cause injury.
- To prevent needle-stick injury, place the needle or syringe in the container – sharp end first.
- Carefully secure the lid of the container.
- Place the secured container in a safe place.
- Remove gloves.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Cleaners should report back to Principal or Registrar.