



ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND ILLICIT DRUGS POLICY

CONTEXT

This policy aims to promote the development of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to live a healthy and fulfilling life. It is framed within the Christian and Marist principles that underpin education at Sacred Heart College.

The policy is designed to contribute to developing and maintaining a safe living and learning environment for all members of the school community.

PRINCIPLES

Sacred Heart College seeks to establish a safe and caring community in which drug issues are dealt with in an informed, just and compassionate manner. Particular principles upon which the response to tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs are based include:

- support for students, parents and staff in the endeavour to live by Christian values;
- promotion of respect for self and others;
- promotion of an environment where spiritual, social, emotional, intellectual and physical well-being are nurtured and developed;
- the importance of informed decision making about the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs in the community;
- the education of young people, via the curriculum of the nature of drug use and abuse;
- clear management and support strategies for matters related to drug use and abuse;
- communication between students, parents and other interested parties on health promotion in the school community.

PROCEDURES

Education Initiatives:

At Sacred Heart College, the educational programme will:

- promote healthy life choices through a knowledge and understanding of health issues;
- include discussion of the harmful use of legal medications, alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs and substances;
- encourage open and informed discussion of critical health issues;
- encourage parental involvement;
- upon request, facilitate educational opportunities for parents.

Medication Management:

In the case of **Prescribed Medications**, it is the responsibility of the caregiver to:

- inform the School of any relevant details related to the medication provided, and
- wherever possible, promote their child's own responsible management of that medication.

Reference to Non-prescribed medication, eg. Analgesics

- non-prescribed medication, eg. Paracetamol will be supplied at the discretion of School Nurse if written consent has been provided in the student diary.

The storage and administration of such medication will be negotiated between parents and the School Nurse, on an individual basis.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Incident Management

When non-sanctioned drug use occurs at the school a systematic understanding of, and response to the situation, will be involved. Accordingly;

When

- at school,
- in school uniform,
- representing the school,
- or on any occasion when the staff of the School have responsibility for an individual student or group of students,

Sacred Heart College does not allow students to:

- smoke tobacco;
- consume alcoholic beverages;
- possess or use illegal drugs;
- misuse prescribed or non-prescribed drugs;
- misuse solvents and other chemical agents;
- possess drug related objects unless medically authorised.

Sacred Heart College prohibits:

- the possession, sale, supply, exchange or negotiation in relation to any of the above.

If a breach of these expectations is suspected, some or all of the following actions will occur:

- assessment of the immediate health status of the student, and resort to medical assistance, if required;
- confiscation and identification of any substances;
- preliminary investigation to establish the facts;
- information conveyed to caregivers of the student(s) involved;
- formal interviews with the students(s) concerned;
- the involvement of caregivers in the resolution of the incident;
- contact with the police, if the substance is suspected to be illegal.
- Contact with the Education Drug Division Intervention Team (8241 7022) to offer counselling, support and harm minimization strategies

Consequences for the student, depending upon the seriousness of the breach, could include any of the following:

- placement upon a contract between student, caregivers and school. This contract may require attendance of counselling and/or treatment programmes.
- Detention.
- Suspension.
- Termination of enrolment.
- Police action.

References

The Drug and Alcohol Services Council provides information, counselling, treatment,

referral and training..... 8274 3333

A 24 hour information and counselling service is provided on.....13 13 40

Centacare..... 8210 8200

Lifeline..... 13 11 14

Kids Help Line..... 1800 551 800

Living Hope Counselling..... 8277 4033

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