



ALCOHOL and DRUGS PROCEDURE

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Due for review: 2021

RATIONALE

In addition to the laws that govern the use of drugs and alcohol in the wider community, and in Christ's spirit of love, justice and freedom, the Bunbury Catholic College community seeks, through the publication and implementation of this procedure, to

- empower students to reach their potential, free from the effects of any substance abuse
- ensure real freedom for members of the community by facilitating a comprehensive approach to all matters relating to the use of alcohol and drugs, which will enable informed choices to be made and social pressures to be challenged
- ensure that all members and potential members of the College community are clearly informed of the rules that apply at Bunbury Catholic College, with regards to the use of or introduction of alcohol and drugs, and of the actions that will be undertaken, both pastoral and punitive, in the event of the rules being contravened.

DEFINITION

For the purpose of this procedure, a drug is defined as "any substance, which when taken into the body alters its function physically and/or psychologically". This definition includes all drugs, e.g. analgesics, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, amphetamines, addictive illegal drugs, and solvents. While not illegal or classified as drugs, solvents (also called volatile substances) are included in the school drug procedure, e.g. glue, acetone, petrol, pressure pack material, nitrous oxide canisters and the like.

COLLEGE APPROACH

The Vision Statement seeks to 'empower' students at our College. The school's primary goal is education and as part of this process the students will be provided with knowledge, skills and support to make informed decisions about a range of social issues, including the use of any drug. It is vital that whilst students receive factual information on the use/abuse of drugs, it is important to point out that these discussions will not condone or encourage any illegal activities, as these activities are counter cultural to the values, as espoused by the College. The educational thrust incorporates a combination of factual information, attitude and values clarification and decision-making skills. The information presented to students aims to be up to date and relevant and, where necessary, the College will call upon appropriate community resources. The College envisages that all information presented, with regards to the use of substances, will facilitate and enable the issue to be discussed in an informed manner, both in the family home and in the classroom. The College will seek to ensure staff members are provided with the knowledge needed to deal with issues related to the use of alcohol and drugs, should this occur at the College.

A College Counsellor is available to assist staff and students with specific needs. Whenever relevant, referrals will also be made to appropriate outside agencies. Periodically, Heads of Year and

Homeroom teachers will ensure that the students in their care are aware of the rules and consequences regarding the use of alcohol and drugs at the College.

EXPECTATIONS

Bunbury Catholic College does not permit students, regardless of age, whilst on the College premises, travelling to or from the College campuses, or attending a College function to

- be in possession of, or smoke, tobacco products. This includes the possession of oils used for electronic cigarettes or “vaping”
- be in possession of, consume, or supply other students with, alcoholic beverages
- misuse legal drugs or deliberately inhale solvents, such as nitrous oxide canisters
- possess drug related equipment such as syringes, except in cases of lawful medical use
- possess or use prohibited drugs in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1981
- arrange for the distribution and/or sale of illegal substances or to be involved in situations which may put other students at risk. This includes the production or supply of drugs or drug related implements such as syringes, bongs, pipes.

Note that “on College premises or at a College function” means any time a student is under Bunbury Catholic College care, whether in uniform, or not, and includes travelling to and from school, camps, retreats, excursions, or other Bunbury Catholic College functions, such as a College social, College Ball or whilst representing the College in any official capacity.

Currently the law regarding the sale and possession of alcohol and drugs is clear, and penalties are in place for offenders who are convicted. Members of our College community are subject to these laws, on, as well as off, College property and members of the College community have the same responsibility as every other citizen to uphold the law. Our College community expects that Bunbury Catholic College will convey, by its actions and teachings, that it does not in any way encourage or condone any form of drug or alcohol use that is prohibited by the law.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Parents are required to provide the College with a permission letter, as well as written details of a student’s medical needs and prescriptions, should these have to be administered during the day. The College Nurse or designated Administration Officer, will oversee this, as needed. The College Nurse or designated Administration Officer is the only one allowed to administer Analgesics such as Panadol.

CONSEQUENCES

The procedures outlined below have the emotional and physical health and welfare of the students as a priority. The College’s primary focus is on the pastoral care of each student, regardless of the transgression.

Each instance will be considered according to the given set of circumstances at the time. In each instance the College Executive, in consultation with the Head of Year, will determine which support services are to be called upon, who is to be informed, and any consequences to be imposed.

Parents will be kept informed and involved at all times.

Smoking or being in the company of smokers, will result in one or all of the following

- a detention
- parental contact and interview
- internal College suspension
- counselling, as needed
- Repeat transgressions will result in heavier consequences, which include an interview with the Principal or exclusion from the College, in consultation with the Catholic Education Office

Possession, supply and or consumption/use of alcohol, solvents, aerosols/canisters

- Parental contact and interview
- Internal or external College suspension
- Counselling, as needed
- Repeat transgressions will result in heavier consequences, which include an interview with the Principal or exclusion from the College, in consultation with the Catholic Education Office

The possession, supply/sale, use of illegal drugs on College premises

- The College retains the right to ask students to open their lockers for the purpose of a search
- The Police will be contacted in an instance where the possession of illegal drugs is suspected
- Parents will be contacted to be present during police questioning; where this is not possible, a staff member of the same gender will be present “in loco parentis”
- Internal or external College suspension
- Appropriate counselling, as a condition of re-entry to the College
- Repeat transgressions will result in heavier consequences, which include an interview with the Principal or exclusion from the College, in consultation with the Catholic Education Office
- Students who are knowingly in the company of those who are in breach of College procedure, can face the same consequences