



ILLICIT AND UNSANCTIONED SUBSTANCES IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Scope: This policy applies to all Catholic kindergartens, schools and colleges (referred to as 'Catholic schools' in the document), conducted by Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as CEDR in the document).

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Illicit and unsanctioned substances are prohibited in Catholic Schools. Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rockhampton will implement age-appropriate drug education programs. Catholic schools will also implement prevention and intervention strategies with regard to the use and possession of illicit and unsanctioned substances by students.

2. DESCRIPTION

This policy supports CEDR's commitment to the care and protection of children and young people. Catholic schools in the Diocese are guided by gospel values in addition to operating within legislative requirements.

Catholic schools play significant roles in preparing students for living in society. Catholic schools can contribute to reducing problems relating to the use and possession of illicit and unsanctioned substances by educating staff, by making information available to parents and students, by providing positive role models, by promoting health and by responding to the students' welfare needs.

3. DEFINITIONS

ILLICIT SUBSTANCES

This term should be taken to cover any substance or item whose possession is prohibited under the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 or associated Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987.

UNSANCTIONED SUBSTANCES

This term should be taken to cover any substance whose possession, while not illegal, is in contravention to school rules (e.g. alcohol and certain medicines, all smoking products, including tobacco, electronic cigarettes, chroming devices or vape pens or other vaporiser related products.).



4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. While maintaining the integrity of the *Procedure for Incidents Involving Illicit and Unsanctioned Substances* and the *Student Drug Testing Procedures*, the Principal will ensure that the procedures adopted are relevant to the local school context. Adopted procedures are to be communicated to the relevant Assistant Director: Schools.
2. Each Catholic school is responsible for the development and implementation of any necessary procedures and guidelines to assist those responsible for the management of incidents and the determination of appropriate responses on a case by case basis.
3. Each Catholic school shall take appropriate steps to inform staff, parents and students of the nature and purpose of this policy and procedures.

5. REFLECTION MATERIAL

CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- [Code of Conduct](#) v4 2022
- [Statement of Principles for Employment in Catholic Schools](#)
- *Procedure for Incidents Involving Illicit and Unsanctioned Substances* v3 2018
- *Student Drug Testing Procedures* v1 2017
- *Student Code of Conduct*

LEGISLATION

- [Queensland Government Drugs Misuse Act 1986](#)
- [Queensland Government Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987](#)
- [Queensland Government Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998](#)
- [Queensland Government Liquor Act 1992](#)
- [Queensland Government Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011](#)

RESOURCES

- [Student Wellbeing Hub](#)
- [Australia Drug Foundation](#)
- QCEC Education Update Special Edition - Vaping and e-cigarettes