



Drugs and Unsanctioned Substances Policy

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“We are creatures of God and therefore have an obligation to live in a way consistent with human wellbeing. Not to abuse the gift of our bodies through any form of unhealthy behaviour”.

Fr B Lucas, CEPD, February, 1994, p13.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Ryan Catholic College develops safe and supportive learning environments. We encourage students and members of the supporting community to adopt ways of living without the detrimental effects of illicit and unsanctioned substances. The College commits to this responsibility to teach young people about the harmful effects of drugs and unsanctioned substances as a key preventative measure in the ongoing effort to address drug-related harm and promote healthy and drug-free school communities.

It is essential to be able to respond to drugs and unsanctioned substances issues in a positive manner, respecting the rights and needs of all. In this policy, the term ‘drugs’ and ‘unsanctioned substances’ refer to the following:

- *Drugs* means a dangerous drug within the meaning of the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the production, sale, possession, trafficking or use of which is prohibited by law.
- *Unsanctioned substance* means a substance that is restricted by law or College procedures and guidelines which may include illicit drugs, prescription medication, tobacco products, alcohol, inhalants or over-the-counter medications.

INTRODUCTION

Students, regardless of their age, may not be in possession of, under the influence of, consume or supply drugs and unsanctioned substances to other students within the College environment.

This policy applies to the activities of students, on the way to and from the College and while away from the College site on College endorsed activities. It can also apply outside of College hours and off College premises where there is a clear and close connection between the College and the conduct of students. The protective framework for students is the shared responsibility of students, teachers, leadership, parents and the community.

POLICY DIRECTIVE

The College strategy is to:

- a) Keep the welfare of the student and whole College community as the highest priorities.
- b) State clear expectations of behaviour that do not tolerate abusive and unsafe behaviour, and can be consistently interpreted and upheld by College staff.
- c) Implement co-ordinated teaching and learning programs that underpin and complement the College’s Christian ethos and to educate students, parents/ caregivers and teachers on abstaining from drug use / unsanctioned substance abuse.
- d) Facilitate appropriate professional development for College staff.


- e) Affirm that students have a responsibility to be positive role models within the College and in representing the College in the wider community.
- f) Students will be empowered through consistent education and supported by appropriate pastoral care to make informed and responsible decisions.
- g) Provide mechanisms for the ongoing monitoring and review of the College's approach to prevention, education, risk assessment and incident management.
- h) Develop a set of guidelines which relate to the consequences consistent with the Positive Behaviour Management Policy.

Consequences:

The consequence for each situation will be determined by the Principal after appropriate investigation and consultation.

- a) All students will be treated with dignity, compassion and confidentiality.
- b) Students will be encouraged and supported in making responsible decisions, especially when they are contrary to those of their peers.
- c) Referral to professional support will be provided to students and their carers, where appropriate.
- d) Where an incident involving any student occurs, carers will be involved as soon as possible.
- e) The consumption or inhaling of drugs and unsanctioned substances on the College premises or while representing the College are serious misdemeanors. These may result in lengthy suspensions, prescriptive return to school strategies or exclusion.
- f) The selling or distribution of drugs and unsanctioned substances to others including fellow students on College premises or while representing the College are serious misdemeanors and exclusion may be the result of such actions.
- g) Unlawful and/or illegal activities will be reported by the Principal, or their delegate to the appropriate authorities.

REFERENCES:

 SDS_G094_10_20 Managing Incidents Relating to illegal drugs and illicit substances (2020)
[DEC's Illicit Drugs and Unsanctioned Substances Policy \(2020\)](#)

Revision History:

- [May 2022](#)