

Drug Policy

<i>Issued</i>	<i>September 2017</i>	<i>Replaces</i>	<i>June 2013</i>	<i>Revision due</i>	<i>September 2020</i>
---------------	-----------------------	-----------------	------------------	---------------------	-----------------------

RATIONALE: Schools develop safe and supportive learning environments. They encourage students and members of the supporting community to adopt ways of living without the detrimental effects of illicit and unsanctioned drugs.

“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.*

It is essential to be able to respond to drug issues in a positive and concerned Christian manner, respecting the rights and needs of all.

In this policy, the term ‘drugs’ refers to any substance, legal or illegal, natural or synthetic, that can alter the way the mind or body works which includes, but is not limited to, alcohol, tobacco products, caffeine, solvents and other volatile substances, over the counter drugs and medicines, prescribed medicines including tranquillisers and painkillers and illegal drugs. This term should also be taken to cover any substance or item whose possession is prohibited under the Drugs Misuse Act.

VALUES: Compassion, Reconciliation, Trust, Truth, Justice, Courage, Love, Common Good, Tolerance, Mutual Respect, Responsibility

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

This policy applies to the activities of students at the College, 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, administration, parents and the community.

IMPLEMENTATION: *Awareness/Education –*

The College strategy is to:

- a) Keep the welfare of the whole College community as the highest priority;
- 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 compliment the College's Christian ethos and to educate students, parents and teachers on abstaining from drug use / 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) Provide instruction in a range of problem solving and personal supporting strategies;
- 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 Behaviour Management Policy

Consequences –

Ryan Catholic College promotes a safe and supportive environment and will endeavour to support students in a Christian and caring way. The consequence for each situation will be determined by the Principal after appropriate investigation and consultation.

- a) All students will be treated with dignity and compassion.
- b) Students will be empowered through consistent education to make informed and responsible decisions. They will be encouraged and supported in making responsible decisions, especially when they are contrary to those of their peers. Referral to professional support will be provided to students and their parents/caregivers where appropriate.
- c) Where an incident involving any student occurs, parents will be involved as soon as it is possible.
- d) The consumption or inhaling of prohibited and illegal drugs on the school premises or while representing the school are serious misdemeanours. It may result in lengthy suspensions, prescriptive return to school strategies or exclusion.
- e) The selling or distribution of prohibited and illegal drugs to others including fellow students on the school premises or while representing the school are serious misdemeanours and that expulsion will be the result of such actions.
- f) Unlawful and/or illegal activities will be reported by the Principal to the appropriate authorities.