



TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND ILLICIT DRUGS POLICY

PURPOSE	Townsville Grammar School is committed to ensuring students are educated on the impacts of substance misuse in a safe, supportive and drug-free environment.		
SCOPE	Students and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed term and casual employees, as well as contractors, volunteers and people undertaking work experience or vocational placements at Townsville Grammar School.		
REFERENCES	• TGS Drug Education Program		
REVIEWED	Annually	NEXT REVIEW DATE	January 2027
POLICY OWNER	Deputy Principal		

Policy

Townsville Grammar School seeks to establish a safe environment in which students and the wider School community are well informed about contemporary drug issues. The School endeavours to:

- Provide students with relevant and accurate information about drugs.
- Help students to understand that most people their age and most adults in the population choose not to use drugs or to use them in a way that will cause them harm.
- Develop student resilience in addition to personal, social and cognitive skills.
- Enhance student capacity to deal with drug related issues in a variety of contexts through a focus on the following:
 - Assessing possible risks and harms in situations involving drug use.
 - Generating strategies to prevent or deal with potential harm related to situations where drugs are used.
 - Problem solving and generating options.
 - Communicating drug related decisions and concerns.
 - Help-seeking in situations involving substance abuse.
- Involve students in a variety of roles that empower them in educating themselves, their peers, their family and the broader community about dangers associated with engaging in the unsanctioned use of drugs.

Incident Management

The School's procedures for dealing with alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug related incidents apply when:

- At School.
- In School uniform.
- Representing the School on any occasion when the staff of the School have responsibility for an individual student or group of students.
- The student's actions contribute directly to the disciplining of another student or group of students.
- The student's actions bring the School into disrepute.

Students engaging in the use and misuse of the following substances may attract School imposed sanctions, including expulsion:

- Vaporizing devices e.g. e-cigarettes
- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Prescribed or non-prescribed drugs

- Solvents and other chemical agents
- Synthetic drugs
- Illegal drugs

The Principal has the final say in determining the consequences of a student involved in drug related activity to ensure natural justice for all students involved.

Townsville Grammar School prohibits the possession of drug related objects unless medically authorised and the possession, sale, supply, exchange or negotiation in relation to any of the substances listed above.

Students using, possessing or engaging in the distribution of illicit drugs can expect to immediately forfeit their right to be members of the School community.

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

- Assessment of the immediate health status of the student, and resort to medical assistance if required.
- Confiscation of student communication devices during the period of investigation.
- Where stored data on a student's communication device may be relevant to investigations, the School reserves the right to view such data, e.g. text messages and stored photos.
- Search of student property.
- Confiscation of any substances or equipment of concern.
- Supervision of isolated student during investigation.
- Interviews to establish the facts with students concerned prior to parental involvement.
- Parental contact and follow-up as soon as practicable.
- In case of illicit substances, referral to the Police as soon as practicable.

Follow up and consequences for the student, depending upon the seriousness of the breach, could include any of the following:

- Placement upon a contract between student, parents/carers and the School
- Attendance at counselling and/or treatment programs
- Detention
- Suspension
- Termination of enrolment – for activity related to illicit substances
- Police action

Support Services

Students, parents/carers and staff may initiate counselling with the School Counsellor or Psychologist. Such counselling is a service available to all members of the School community. The School will, where required, assist students and their families contact relevant health service providers.