

ST EUPHEMIA COLLEGE

K-12



**DRUGS
POLICY
2014**

1. Policy Statement

This Policy outlines St Euphemia College's responsibilities and responses to drug related incidents. The priority of the Policy is an emphasis on prevention through drug education and maintaining a safe and supportive environment.

2. Applicability

The Policy applies to all St Euphemia College employees and students.

3. Context/Rationale

This policy covers the possession and use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and the misuse of over the counter and prescribed medications, including the supply of restricted substances, on School premises by students, staff and visitors.

A drug is any substance which, when taken into the body, alters its function physically and/or psychologically. This includes all drugs including tobacco and alcohol and solvents that may be inhaled.

Drug use is widespread amongst adolescents in Australia. St Euphemia College has a responsibility to address the problem of harmful drug use both inside and outside normal school hours.

Schools must be places, which are free of illegal drugs.

Drugs (eg alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, etc) must not be consumed or brought onto School premises. This includes employees, students and visitors and other people who use school premises.

The misuse of over-the-counter and prescribed medications is not acceptable at our College.

Where there are concerns that a student may be misusing inhalants/solvents at School, the Principal must manage the matter as a student welfare and health issue.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Responsibility of the Principal/Delegated Authority:

The Principal/Delegated Authority is expected to:

- implement a School policy and procedures for managing drug related incidents
- ensure College rules and consequences about possession and use of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs at school are made known to students, staff parents and caregivers
- ensure College policy about tobacco, alcohol use and other drugs on School premises by visitors and community groups, is made known to the School community
- monitor and review the implementation and effectiveness of responses to drug related incidents
- contact parents or caregivers and seek an interview to discuss all matters prior to any final decision ensuring that the objectives of this policy are integrated into practice
- investigate internally before any matter is reported to police for further investigation
- provide professional development opportunities that assist teachers to achieve drug related educational outcomes.

Responsibility of the Staff:

The Staff are expected to:

- be familiar with and support the College's Policy for managing drug issues and procedures
- support the implementation of this Policy
- inform the Principal/Delegated Authority when they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student is involved in drug related behaviours
- be aware of and act on legal and mandatory reporting obligations i.e. report to the Principal
- contributing to the provision of a safe and supportive environment for all members of the College community
- ensure that all educational programs are consistent with this Policy
- ensure that they do not use, nor are they under the influence of, any illicit or unsanctioned drug (including tobacco and alcohol) while attending the College and College related activities during working hours as well as overnight camps, etc
- contribute to the implementation, monitoring and review process of this Policy.

Responsibility of the School Counsellor:

The School Counsellor is expected to:

- provide students with information and/or counselling if required to do so
- organise if necessary, contact with an outside agency to provide further information and/or counselling
- maintain confidentiality except where this is a legal requirement for the Counsellor to disclose the information. The person should be informed of this disclosure as soon as possible.

Responsibility of the students:

Students are expected to:

- adhere to the School's Policy and Procedures on drugs
- report any behaviour that jeopardises the safe and supportive School environment.

Responsibility of the parents and caregivers:

Parents and caregivers are expected to:

- be aware of and support the College's Policy and Procedures for managing drug issues
- ensure that they and their children do not use, nor are under the influence of, any illicit or unsanctioned drug (including tobacco and alcohol) while attending the College and College related activities during school hours and other School activities.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Requirements

The Principal/Delegated Authority is required to monitor the School's compliance with this Policy.

6. Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary.