



<b>Policy Number:</b>	COLLEGE 30
<b>Policy Name:</b>	Drug & Alcohol Policy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Deputy Principal – Community
<b>Date Approved by Leadership:</b>	September 12, 2019
<b>Date of Next Review:</b>	September 2022
<b>Related Policies:</b>	Wellbeing Procedures Policy Pastoral Care Policy First Aid Policy Child Safe Policy Student Behaviour Support Policy & Plan

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## PREAMBLE

God is at the centre of our College...Mercy is the heartbeat of the Gospel. We encourage every student to grow in the fullness of life and realise their potential through the bread we break at school, the bread of relationships and the bread of conversation. Let us engage the heart and bring faith to life and life to faith (Thomas Groome).

## LEGISLATION

This policy takes into account relevant legislative requirements within the state of Victoria, including the specific requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards as set out in *Ministerial Order No. 1359*. This policy applies to St Joseph's College staff, including employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy.

Further information relating to the Ministerial Order can be found at <https://www.safeguardingservices.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Ministerial-Order-1359.pdf>

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At St Joseph's College, we are concerned with the dignity and growth of each student and staff member. Courtesy, consideration and co-operation all help to foster values of mutual respect, responsibility and service within the College Community.

## 1. PURPOSE

1.1 **DRUGS** - Illegal drug use in schools is a social, mental health, physical health and legal problem that needs to be addressed in accordance with CECV Guidelines.

1.2 **ALCOHOL** - Alcohol, although legal, is considered one of the most harmful drugs affecting young people today. St Joseph's College has a community responsibility to fully inform our students, staff and whole College community about the effects of alcohol. Alcohol education will sit within the context of our College's health education program.

## 2. AIMS

2.1 To provide a College environment that is free of illicit drugs and alcohol, and safe for all staff and students.

2.2 To provide accurate information regarding the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body and mind.

2.3 To ensure students have the necessary knowledge and skills to make positive informed choices in relation to drugs and alcohol use.

2.4 To provide opportunities for the broader College community to participate in drug and alcohol education activities.

2.5 To clearly define the processes required when drugs or alcohol have been brought onto College property or a student or staff member have attended the College clearly under the influence of either.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION**

3.1 As educators we have a legal responsibility to take reasonable measures to protect staff and students in our care from risks of injury that we should have reasonably foreseen, including risks associated with alcohol and illicit drugs.

3.2 It is unacceptable that any student or staff member use, possess, supply or be under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol at the College, at a College function (where students are involved) or in the vicinity of the College or its students.

3.3 Legal issues related to illicit drug and alcohol use and the College's duty of care to its staff and students is complex.

3.4 It is incumbent upon the College to act whenever cases of drug or alcohol use, or illegal or criminal activity occur, or are suspected to have occurred at the College. Staff members who suspect such activity at the College must inform either of the Deputy Principals and/or the Principal.

3.5 Where a student or staff member is suspected of drug and/or alcohol use, the student or staff member will be informed that we are of the opinion that he/she is not in a fit state of mind to be at the College. Parents of students will be contacted and asked to take the student home. Staff involved will be removed from the College grounds. Police will be notified of the presence of any illegal drugs being on College premises.

3.6 A meeting will be held with the parents/guardians and the student, where the Principal or Deputy Principal, Director of Students, House Leader, Homeroom Teacher and Wellbeing Coordinator may attend. In some circumstances, the student will not come to school until this meeting is held. A meeting will be held with the offending staff member, with the Principal and/or Deputy Principal and Wellbeing may be invited by the Principal. Police or other Catholic Education Office staff may be invited to attend the meeting.

3.7 The Deputy Principal Community may arrange for counselling or support as necessary, before or after the meeting for the student/staff member.

3.8 The College Student Behaviour Support Policy & Plan may also be part of the discussion with the parents/guardians and student. Victorian Institute of Teaching procedures will be used in discussion with staff.

3.9 Whether or not the Principal informs all staff, parents/guardians or students of incidents involving drugs and/or alcohol at the College is a matter of circumstances and degree, but the Principal's legal duty is to ensure that the College environment is, as far as practicable, safe and free from risks.

3.10 The College will inform students and parents via newsletters and the student management process that College lockers and desks are College property and may be searched without notice.

3.11 Students suspected of illicit drugs and/or alcohol in College bags or personal clothing are to be separated from other students and supervised. A teacher can conduct an immediate search of a College bag or clothing in the company of another responsible adult if there is imminent danger that the student is likely to use or have in their possession an illicit drug. If possible, Police will be notified and will conduct this investigation if they wish.

- 3.12 Lessons relating to drug and alcohol education will form part of the College health education strategy. Parents will be informed of drug and/or alcohol education lesson content.
- 3.13 Drug and/or alcohol education activities will be provided, ensuring age appropriateness, as part of our College's health education program.
- 3.14 Curriculum materials such as Department of Education Drug Education tool kit, MindMatters, Get Real, Get Wise, Safe Partying, Re-thinking Drinking and Creating Conversations will be used to form the basis of Drug and/or Alcohol education at our College.
- 3.15 Where appropriate, our College will access agencies within our local community with expertise in the field of drug and/or alcohol education to participate in classes, e.g. local Police, Community Health Service, and Drug & Alcohol Counsellors.
- 3.16 Department of Education/Catholic Education Office regional staff will be accessed to provide expertise and assistance with delivering lessons/counselling.
- 3.17 Any lessons taught regarding drugs and/or alcohol will be delivered within the context of a harm minimisation approach to drug education.
- 3.18 Drug and/or alcohol education activities will be provided for staff, parents and the broader College community including seminars and newsletter articles.
- 3.19 A student, staff member or community member attending College or a College function clearly under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, or students consuming drugs and/or alcohol at College or during College functions will be removed from the function or College grounds. Staff or students in such situations will be managed according to VIT and St Joseph's College policies and processes for staff and students acting contrary to acceptable standards. Parents or other adults in such situations will be subject to the St Joseph's College Parent Code of Conduct.
- 3.20 The consumption of drugs and/or alcohol by staff members on camps or excursions is forbidden and may compromise a staff member's professional standing, their ability to carry out their duty of care, and/or loss of WorkCover rights. Students consuming drugs and/or alcohol on a College camp or excursion will be immediately returned to College after their parents/guardians have been contacted. This will be at their parent's/guardian's expense.
- 3.21 Students are not permitted to bring drugs and/or alcohol on to College grounds under any circumstances, and a suspension from the College will be a likely outcome. Such students will be required to undergo an education program.