

# Drugs Policy

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Any student found to be in possession of, under the influence of, or buying drugs will be subject to a range of sanctions which the Principal will oversee. Supplying drugs is unacceptable and will be subject to the severest of sanctions with the real possibility of not returning to the College, as decided by the Principal. The Principal reserves the right to involve the police where provisions of Misuse of Drugs Act have been contravened.

## Rationale

The influence and effect of drug use on the individual, family and community is evident in our society. We believe Lumen Christi College has an obligation to our students to provide drug education. This will combine factual information with clarification of the values encouraged by the College in order to empower students to make informed decisions in social situations. No amount of education alone will guarantee that young people do not become involved in the misuse of these potentially very harmful substances. However, it can provide hope of prevention when combined with quality care, openness and good personal relationships within the home.

This policy has been written to reflect the Mission Statement of Lumen Christi College with a commitment to the Catholic Ethos, emphasising a sense of responsibility to others and to self.

## Aims

This Drug Policy has the following aims in mind:

- To publish guidelines for the prevention of and intervention in the possession, use and distribution of drugs
- To outline the consequences for students found possessing, under the influence, buying or selling drugs, which could include suspension or expulsion from the College
- To outline the educational approach to be taken with regard to the prevention, the intervention and the consequences of drug abuse
- To maintain the dignity of the individual at all times
- To be consistent with State and Federal laws

## Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, a drug is defined as *“Any substance, with the exception of food and water, which when taken into the body alters its function physically and/or psychologically.”*

This definition includes all drugs – analgesics, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, amphetamines, solvents and all other psychoactive drugs.

## Prevention

Drug use is a complex issue and it is recognised that the role of the College in its prevention of drug use requires a comprehensive approach. This approach will address the need to:

- Maintain and review this Drug Policy every year by the Student Services Team
- Provide a continuous comprehensive Drug Education program for all students which addresses drug-related issues delivered by people who are appropriately trained
- Provide workshops for all staff that will provide up-to-date and relevant information about youth drug use issues, drug identification and the recognition of individuals under the influence of drugs
- Skill staff who are involved in counselling students with specific strategies for dealing with drug related issues
- Provide parents with the opportunity to participate in Drug Education programs conducted by community groups. Programs such as ‘Drugs in Perspective’ which are run by the WA Health Department help parents understand drug issues. This will enable them to discuss drug use with their children. It also reinforces the College’s Drug Education program

## Intervention

The regulations listed below reflect current community laws relating to drug use and Health and Safety regulations for a school/work environment. The intervention procedure is designed to address drug use incidents in a way that is in the best interest of all parties involved, while conforming to legal requirements.

Lumen Christi College does not permit students to be in possession, under the influence, to buy or sell:

- tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, solvents
- drug related equipment such as syringes, bongs, pipes etc (as outlined in the *‘Misuse of Drugs Act 1981’*) except in the case of lawful medical use; for example, the use of needles by a person with diabetes to administer insulin

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- prohibited drugs in accordance with the *'Misuse of Drugs Act 1981'*
  - prescribed or non-prescribed drugs (used inappropriately)

The Principal reserves the right to authorise the search of a student's bag or locker by a senior staff member if there is reasonable belief that contraband (ie. prohibited items listed above) may be present.

If there is a belief that a student is hiding contraband on his/her person a Police Officer will be called to conduct an appropriate search. In such a case the student's parent should be notified and present.

**Note:**

*"On our premises or at any College function"* includes any time students travel to and/or from the College, any time the student is wearing the College uniform, any College camp, any College excursion or tour intrastate, interstate or overseas. Staff involved in such activities are expected to adhere to the above conditions 24 hours a day when acting in a supervisory role, as per Catholic Education Guidelines.

Since role models regarding drug use have a significant impact on children's drug use and behaviour, the College staff, other workers and visitors to the College, or individuals who are attending a College function, will be expected to adhere to the above conditions when they are acting in a supervisory role. However, social functions involving alcohol use by adults on College premises may proceed at the discretion of the Principal.

**Consequences**

The procedures outlined below have the spiritual, emotional and physical health and welfare of the students of this College as a priority. As such, only staff members who need to know will be informed of any incidents of drug use and they will be kept up-to-date with the case. All staff are required to maintain strict confidentiality. Any member of staff who has information or concerns regarding a student's involvement in drugs is duty bound to discuss the matter with the Principal. Each instance will be considered individually and independently according to the given set of circumstances. Wherever possible, the health and welfare of the individual student involved will be considered in the context of the College environment and its support services.

In a situation where a student is suspected of being under the influence of a drug, the student will be referred to a First Aid trained staff member. The student will then be taken to the Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care) who will follow the established procedures as set out below.

Where appropriate, counselling will be made available to the student by the College. External counselling agencies may be contacted at this stage. Students will be referred to relevant agencies after discussion between the Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care), the Principal and the parents.

This policy recognises four categories of drugs:

- Tobacco and Alcohol
- Solvents and other Psychoactive Drugs
- Illegal Drugs
- Medications

**Tobacco**

**Consequences**

Where a student is in possession, or buying of tobacco products will:

**On the First Infringement:**

- One day internal suspension
- An Anti-smoking Education Package will be provided to the student whilst on suspension for completion

**On Subsequent Infringement:**

- One day external suspension
- Student and parent interview with Principal to discuss their enrolment at the College

**Supplying of tobacco products**

Where a student is found supplying tobacco products this will result in more severe sanctions:

- One day external suspension (first infringement)
- Two day external suspension (second infringement)
- Student and parent interview with Principal to discuss their enrolment at the College

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## Alcohol

### Consequences

The consumption of alcohol by a student is contrary to the philosophy of the College, and is also unlawful under the *Liquor Licensing Act 1988*. In the case of alcohol use, the consequences followed may include an educational strategy and the Police may be notified by the College.

**Where a student is in possession, under the influence of, or buying of alcohol will result in:**

- Parents of the student will be contacted in order to collect the student and take him/her home
- Two day external suspension
- Student and parent attend an interview with the Principal to discuss their enrolment at the College
- A possible outcome of the interview may be to arrange counselling for the student and parents within the College. This may result in referral to outside agencies for continued counselling

**Supplying of alcohol is unacceptable and will be subject to the severest of sanctions with the real possibility of not returning to the College. There is a possibility that the Police may need to be involved.**

- A student and parent interview with Principal to discuss the student's enrolment in the College

## Solvents

### Consequences

Solvents will be confiscated from the student where inhalation/use is suspected on our premises or at a College function.

**Where a student is in possession, under the influence of, or buying of solvents will result in:**

- Parents of the student will be contacted in order to collect the student and take him/her home
- Two day external suspension
- Student and parent attend an interview with the Principal to discuss their enrolment at the College
- A possible outcome of the interview may be to arrange counselling for the student and parents within the College. This may result in referral to outside agencies for continued counselling

**Supplying of solvents is unacceptable and will be subject to the severest of sanctions with the real possibility of not returning to the College. There is a possibility that the Police may need to be involved.**

- A student and parent interview with Principal to discuss the student's enrolment in the College

## Illegal Drugs

### Consequences

Illegal drugs may include Cannabis, Heroin, MDMA (Ecstasy), Cocaine, LSD, Amphetamines. The possession of illegal drugs is against the law. The sale or supply of illegal drugs is also against the law and carries with it severe penalties. Students found to be in possession of illegal drugs may be cautioned or charged by the Police. Students supplying drugs to other students (whether or not money is exchanged) may be charged by the Police. Under current legislation Police do not have the discretion to caution a student who has supplied drugs to another person. Any illegal drugs or drug related paraphernalia which have been confiscated by the College will be handed over to the Police as soon as is practicable.

**Where a student is in possession, under the influence of, or buying of illegal drugs will result in:**

- Parents of the student will be contacted immediately to come to the school for an interview
- The Police will be contacted
- Consequences which may be applied to students of this College who are involved with illegal drugs include suspension or exclusion from the College

**Supplying of illegal drugs is unacceptable and will result in:**

- The Principal or the Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care) being informed immediately
- Parents of the student will be contacted immediately to come to the school for an interview
- The Police will be contacted
- Exclusion from the College

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## Medications

Prescription drugs should never be taken by anyone other than the person for whom they have been prescribed.

If a student is found to abuse or supply prescribed or non-prescribed medications (such as analgesics or ADD medication) while on College premises or travelling to and from school, or at a College function the following consequences will apply:

- Parents of the student will be contacted in order to collect the student and take him/her home
- Student and parent attend an interview with the Principal and the Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care)
- The student will be either suspended or excluded from the College, at the discretion of the Principal
- As a result of the interview it may be considered necessary to arrange counselling for the student and parents within the College. This may result in referral to outside agencies for continued counselling

### Note:

The College recognises that students may need to take prescribed medication during school hours. If parents are concerned about the self-administration of medication they are encouraged to contact the Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care).

## Conclusion

In developing and implementing a Drug Policy, the College reinforces its role in the prevention of drug abuse problems and demonstrates its responsiveness to an issue of community concern.

This Drug Policy is designed to protect the welfare of students and staff by ensuring that incidents involving drug use are addressed rationally and in a manner that reflects the *College Mission Statement*. This Drug Policy ensures confidentiality and access to counselling if necessary.

This Drug Policy provides a consistent approach while ensuring each incident is dealt with according to the nature of the infringement as well as maintaining the dignity of all those involved.