



STUDENT DRUGS AND DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

Penola Catholic College, enlightened by the Gospel Values of Faith, Love, Hope and Compassion, strives to provide a holistic education, which meets the needs and gifts of each student.

Raising critical awareness by educating about drugs and their physical, emotional and psychological effects are an essential aspect of the holistic education provided at the College.

In addition, Penola Catholic College acknowledges the importance of prevention practices in regards to the use of both legal and illegal drugs. Therefore there is an emphasis on strategies and structures, which promote and encourage improved personal health through resilience, self-esteem and a well-balanced lifestyle.

Definition

Drugs are substances that may alter mental and / or physical processes such as mood, cognition, thinking, behaviour or physical performance.

Drugs may include legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco or pharmaceuticals (**prescribed and non prescribed**). Drugs may also be illegal substances. The production, sale, possession or use of illegal drugs is prohibited.

College Position Statement

In the light of the above definition, the College does not permit the use, possession or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, chemicals, other illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia on College premises.

In compliance with our legal responsibilities, any student who uses, is in possession of, or distributes any drug deemed to be illegal by the State, will be dealt with according to mandated processes and this will result in a referral to government authorities.

Statements Of Beliefs

Penola Catholic College has a commitment to:

- Actively discourage student involvement in the use, possession and/or distribution of tobacco, alcohol and **any** illicit drugs.

- Providing a relevant and comprehensive education about drugs as a core component of the curriculum.
- Providing an education about drugs commensurate to their abilities to make informed and free choices.
- Providing an education that recognises the appropriate uses of beneficial drugs.
- Providing an education in a supportive, student-centred classroom by teachers who have appropriate knowledge and skills to teach drug education.
- Seeking to develop an educational environment that promotes supportive relationships, connectedness and resilience.
- Maintaining welfare procedures that seek to support students at risk of drug related harm and that work in tandem with education about drugs.
- Seeking actively to involve parents and students in a whole-school approach to drug education.
- Seeking to develop positive working relationships between College support staff and key drug and alcohol community agencies to ensure student welfare needs.

The Penola Catholic College Student Drugs And Drug Education Policy Is Informed By, And Should Be Read In Conjunction With:

- The Mission and Vision Statements
- The Student Wellbeing and Personal Responsibility Policy
- The Teaching and Learning Policy
- The Curriculum & Procedures Policy
- The Critical Incidents Plan
- The Smoking Policy
- The First Aid / Medication Policy