



ILLICIT DRUGS (STUDENT USE OF) POLICY

*For us the lives and faces of young people (each and every one) are places where this God of life reveals Himself to us and we get to know Him.
(Evangelizers in the Midst of Youth #79)*

Rationale

Illegal drug use by students (including the misuse of prescription medication) increases the risk of injury to the students themselves and to others, as well as impairing the ability of students to respond appropriately in an emergency.

Context

Newman College is committed to providing a safe environment for all our students, workers and visitors.

It is our policy that:

- The use, possession and supply of illicit drugs and/or drug paraphernalia (such as pipes or 'bongs') by students is strictly prohibited;
- While on College property, or representing the College in any way, students are not permitted to be under the influence of illicit drugs;
- All students will receive age appropriate health and drug education to enable and support them to make informed choices, and to minimise the harm associated with drug use; and
- Referrals to counselling and support groups will be provided to students with drug related problems;
- All reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety and welfare of students from both known and reasonably foreseeable illicit drug related risks of harm and/or injury;
- The Principal, members of the Senior Leadership Team or Leaders of Wellbeing are informed if staff have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student is involved in illicit drug related behaviour;
- Prescription drugs are not supplied or administered to students unless following the directions set out in the **Medication Administration Policy**; and
- Students are asked to display their possessions or contents of their bag or locker in the presence of another teacher, where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion that they have illicit drugs in their possession.

Dealing with a Student Affected by Drugs

Where a student exhibits obvious signs of drug use, a worker shall:

- Isolate the student from their peers in a calm and controlled manner (if possible);
- If this is not possible and an impaired student refuses to cooperate and/or becomes agitated, ensure that any other students within the immediate vicinity are removed from harm and attempt to calm the student until such time as other workers are able to provide assistance;
- Ask the student to accompany them to the College Administration Office;
- Contact the Principal, Head of Secondary, Leaders of Wellbeing or Head of Primary to inform them of the situation; and
- In all instances, the parents will be notified.

The Principal shall then make an assessment of the student's condition and take appropriate action based on the facts. This will include contacting the student's parents/carers to inform them of the incident and requesting that they remove the student from the College grounds, and/or calling the police in the event that the student presents a physical threat to staff or others.