

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, staff 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
- referrals to counselling and support groups will be provided to students with drug related problems, where appropriate
- the Police will be consulted in relation to all suspected incidents of illicit drug use, possession or supply which occur on College grounds.

Dealing with a Student Affected by Drugs

Where a student exhibits obvious signs of drug use a worker must:

- 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 other workers are able to provide assistance
- ask the student to accompany them to the College Administration Office
- contact the Principal, Vice Principal, Deputy Principal Wellbeing Secondary, Leaders of Wellbeing or Leader of Early Childhood to inform them of the situation

In all instances, the parents will be notified.

Responsibilities of the Principal

The Principal must make an assessment of the student's condition and take appropriate action based on the facts.

In all cases, the welfare and safety of both the student with suspected drug use, possession or supply and the welfare of the student population must be considered.

Actions by the Principal must include:

- consulting with the Police to see if use, possession or supply of drugs criminal law offences apply
- confiscating and/or isolating any remaining illicit drugs
- contacting the student's parents/guardians to inform them of the incident.

The Principal may consider:

- requesting that the student's parents/guardians remove them from the College grounds
- contacting drug diversionary or counselling services for further referral
- suspension or expulsion, according to our Discipline policy.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff must ensure that:

- they follow the guidelines set out in this policy when dealing with a student that they believe may be under the influence of illicit drugs
- 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 they 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 our Medication Administration policy
- 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.

Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- student education via ongoing age-appropriate drug education programs integrated into classroom learning
- development of a drug-safe culture by promoting student awareness of drug abuse
- effective incident notification procedures
- effective communication procedures
- effective record keeping procedures
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary.