



Drugs and Illicit Substances Policy

St Joseph's School believes in educating students for active participation in all dimensions of life through witness to Christ's message. We as a community, promote informed decision-making about the use of tobacco, alcohol and all other drugs in the community. This policy has been formulated in conjunction with the school Health program and aims at Education of drug use and abuse.

RATIONALE:

We seek to educate the whole person and integrate faith with the culture of a developing young person in Australian society.

- The use of illicit and unsanctioned drugs has no place in our school.

PURPOSE & AIMS:

Through application of this policy, we aim to:

- Provide a healthy and safe environment for the students as well as the whole school community.
- Educate young people about the responsible use of drugs as part of a healthy lifestyle by providing an ongoing comprehensive health / drug education program.

Guidelines:

In support of this policy, we will implement the policy under the following circumstances:

- On school premises during stated school hours.
- At school activities authorised by the Principal – eg school discos, camps, school sleepovers and class school activities.
- Whilst in school uniform.

Medication And General Health Needs:

In support of this policy, St Joseph's School will:

- Accept responsibility for reasonable supervision of students.
- Provide appropriate drug education.
- Inform the students and parents of our expectations with regard to the use of drugs.
- Ensure that medication is dispensed according to school guidelines (refer to Appendix 1).
- Ensure that management plans and procedures are in place for students suffering from asthma or other serious medical conditions.

The staff will:

- Be familiar with health management plans of students in their care suffering from asthma or other serious medical conditions.
- Fulfill their student supervision obligations.
- Maintain confidentiality.

The students will:

- Ensure that they are familiar with and abide by the school's medication dispensing guidelines.
- Maintain a respect for their own health and that of others.

The parents will:

- Be familiar with the school's medication dispensing guidelines.
- Inform the school of any medical condition that requires monitoring of special provisions being made.
- Inform the school of any medication that students are taking which may affect their performance or behaviour at school.

Illicit and Unsanctioned Drug Use:

In support of this policy, St Joseph's School will inform the school community that in the context of the statements made earlier in this policy, the school does not tolerate student use of:

- tobacco.
- alcohol.
- any illicit drugs.
- or possession of drug-related objects such as syringes, pipes, bongs etc.
- solvents or other chemical agents.
- any prescription medication except with written permission from parents (following guidelines of medical management plans).
- attendance at school or authorised school activities whilst affected by drugs.

The school prohibits possession, sale, supply, exchange or negotiation of the above when on school premises or any occasions when the staff, have responsibility for an individual or a group of students.

The Principal will:

- Support the professional development of staff around drug education.
- In the event of a drug related incident follow procedures that promote and protect the safety and welfare of all members of the school community.
 - in all cases, the parents / caregivers of the student will be notified immediately.
 - if the incident involves an illicit substance the police will be notified.
 - develop a range of responses that consider the nature of the incident, the circumstances of the student(s) involved, including relevant age, development, gender, cultural and social considerations and the needs and safety of others in the school.
 - inform other school staff on a need-to-know basis only.

The staff will:

- Provide an educational program that.
 - reflects the principles of best practice in drug education.
 - reflects a positive preventative approach and harm reduction strategies which take care not to normalise inappropriate drug use.
 - builds on student's knowledge, understandings, skills and strategies about the use of drugs to enable them to make informed responsible decisions about drug use as part of a healthy lifestyle.
- Direct the student to the Principal in the event or the suspicion of a drug related incident.
- Maintain confidentiality.

The students will:

- Ensure that they are familiar with and abide by the school's policy and procedures on the responsible use of licit and illicit drugs.

The parents will:

- Ensure that they are familiar with the school's policy and procedures on licit and illicit drugs as stated above.
- Support the drug education program offered by the school.
- Meet with the principal in the event of their child being involved in a drug related incident to be informed about the school's discipline and pastoral care responses.

Basis of Discretion:

The principal reserves the right to inform parents, interview students and take appropriate action if there is reasonable suspicion that a student is breaching this policy, particularly as regards the guidelines concerning illicit and unsanctioned drug use at school.

Medication Management Guidelines-Administering Medication:

At St Joseph's School the management of medication will be closely monitored by an ESO. This will ensure the safe keeping and administering of all medication to students.

Procedure for long-term medication:

- All student medication will be kept in individual containers clearly marked with the student's name and use by date.
- The medication will be kept in the 'First Aid' room.
- Medical records will be kept in the 'First Aid' room that indicate the management of the administering of the medication to each student.
- A photograph of every student who has a medical condition that requires special monitoring will be displayed in the 'First Aid' room and the Staff Room.
- When medication is administered a student record, time, dose and administrator will be recorded on a data sheet.

Procedure for short-term medication:

- Parents/caregivers will bring the medication to the front office in the morning. The medication will indicate:
 - Student's name
 - Dose
 - Time the medication must be taken
- Parents/caregivers will provide written permission for the medication to be administered.
- Parents/caregivers will collect the medication at the end of the day.

Signed:

Chairperson School Board: Steve AtkinsonAugust 2023

Principal: Don DePalmaAugust 2023

Policy Review Date: August 2023

Next Review Date: August 2026