



LOYOLA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

A set of written instructions that identifies the health and safety issues that may arise from the jobs and tasks that make up a system of work.

Drug education at Loyola Senior High School is based on

- Loyola's Mission Statement
- C.E.O. Document: 'Policy procedures and resources for matters involving students and illegal substances'
- Loyola's Pastoral Care Policy
- Loyola's Student Management Plan
- C.E.O. Document: 'Management of Matters Involving Students and Illegal Drugs'
- Current drug education programs incorporated into the school's curriculum.

In addition, the following characteristics are inherent in our drug policy

- A positive view of person
- Commitment to community and the common good
- Commitment to peace and justice
- A belief in the redemptive love of God and faith in Jesus Christ
- Promotion of the individual's basic rights, responsibilities and dignity.

Aim

Each student has the right to attend a school which is free of illegal drugs. Our school values the worth of each child and as such makes a commitment to enhance the physical, emotional, social and intellectual well-being of the individual.

We believe that our school has an important role to play in establishing programs and practices that will result in the elimination of substance use and abuse.

We acknowledge that there is a fundamental need for parents/carers and the community to support such programs and practices.

We also recognise the need for, and the importance of a support network to assist students who are already experiencing problems in this area.

In managing drug related incidents, responses to individual situations should be made in the light of the Gospel value of justice and forgiveness.

Implementation

- Preventative education about types, abuse and effects of illegal drugs will be provided on a cross-curriculum and pastoral basis.
- KLA areas e.g. Religious Education, Science and PDHPE should incorporate, where appropriate, other relevant information about the nature of illegal drugs, decision making processes and the use of such substances.
- Pastoral care time e.g. homeroom, assemblies and pastoral care lessons should also be a forum for preventative education.
- It is anticipated that the school will provide drug education for the parent/carer community so that they can support the school in achieving a drug free environment for their children.

Pastoral Responsibilities

When students are involved in incidents related to illegal drugs, support for them and their families is an essential element of a Christian pastoral response.

Counselling by the Student Counsellor will be offered to students and their families before the formal resolution of the situation and after the final outcome has been determined, in addition, if an incident results in a student transferring to another school all efforts will be made to ensure a fresh start for that student and the offer of ongoing counselling.

Recommended Outcomes for Incidents Involving Illegal Drugs

- 1. Expulsion is the maximum penalty for students who are involved in incidents in the following circumstances:-**
 - Selling illegal drugs on school premises, whilst attending school functions, or wearing school uniform.
 - A repeat offence by a student who has previously been involved in the selling, use or possession of an illegal drug while on school premises, attending a school function, or wearing school uniform.
- 2. It is recommended that students be suspended out of school for a period of up to 10 days in the following circumstances:-**
 - The first time purchasing, possessing or using an illegal drug whilst on school premises, attending a school function, or wearing school uniform.

In the above circumstances it is also recommended that students be placed on provisional enrolment, the terms of which are negotiated between the Principal, student and the student's parents/carers. The maximum penalty for failure to meet the terms of provisional enrolment is expulsion. In addition, students will be expected to partake in community service supervised by the school.

- 3. Students may be suspended in school if they knowingly choose to be in the company of students while they are using, buying or selling illegal drugs on school premises, at school functions or while wearing school uniform.**

Banned Substances

Tobacco and Tobacco Products

The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires employers to provide a safe workplace; consequently, smoking is not permitted in any area of the school property, not at any school related activity or function.

The health risks associated with smoking form part of the Pastoral Program. Students will be educated about making informed choices, the risks associated with smoking and strategies for dealing with peer pressure.

The schools Non-smoking Policy will be communicated to the community by the school newsletter. A combination of counselling and disciplinary measures will address any incident of smoking.

The school counsellor will assist students who are addicted to smoking tobacco to quit or reduce their habit.

Alcohol

Students are not permitted to consume alcohol on school premises, whilst attending school related functions or at any time they are wearing the school uniform. Incidents related to the consumption of alcohol will be dealt with as per the steps outlined in Loyola Senior High School's Student Management Policy.

- Alcohol education activities will be provided, as part of our school's drug education program.
- Materials such as Get Real, Get Wise, Safe Partying and Re-thinking Drinking will be used to form the basis of alcohol education at our school.
- Where appropriate, our school will access agencies within our local community with expertise in the field of alcohol education to participate in classes, for example local police, Community Health Service, drug and alcohol counsellors.
- A clear protocol will be developed addressing the issue of a student attending school or a school function clearly under the influence of alcohol, or students consuming alcohol at school or during school functions.
- The consumption of alcohol by staff members on camps, excursions or retreats is prohibited and compromises a staff member's professional standing, the ability to carry out their duty of care, and/or loss of Work Cover rights.
- Students are not permitted to bring alcohol onto school grounds under any circumstances.

Other Illegal Drugs

- Students are not permitted to bring illegal drugs onto school grounds under any circumstances, nor to any school related activity or function.
- A clear protocol will be developed addressing the issue of a student attending school or a school function clearly under the influence of illegal drugs, or students using illegal drugs at school or during school functions.
- Where appropriate, our school will access agencies within our local community with expertise in the field of drug education to participate in classes, for example Community Health Service, drug and alcohol counsellors.
- The school counsellor will assist students who are addicted to illegal drugs to access appropriate help and to support them and their families through the process.