

Drugs & Drug Education Policy



INTRODUCTION

The spiritual and physical health and dignity of each student and that of our whole college community is valued at Lavalla Catholic College. Drugs damage the spiritual, psychological, physical and social life of adolescents.

Drug use is gaining more and more recognition as a practice that causes serious damage to adolescents. Many students seem to believe drug usage is acceptable or simply 'a matter of choice for each individual'. Some drugs are perceived to be less dangerous by many students, resulting in an attitude, which can be too casual and accepting. These so-called 'soft drugs' are often spiked with additives, making them more dangerous than many individuals think.

The compact population and diversity of age groups on school campuses creates an environment where student behaviour is easily influenced by peer conduct. Any implied acceptance or tolerance of drugs on campus may lead to their acceptance by students. Therefore Lavalla Catholic College cannot permit or tolerate the possession or consumption of any illicit or illegal drug on campus, or during any other period a student is wearing the school's uniform or engaged in a school activity.

AIM

For Lavalla Catholic College to be a drug free environment.

- Students who use or carry illicit or illegal drugs are treated in a manner, which respects their human dignity.
- Where possible, The Pastoral Welfare Team, Campus Director and Principal deal with issues confidentially.

DEFINITIONS

Illicit - the term illicit refers to drugs that may be purchased or acquired legally but in the context of this school and adolescent behaviour, is not acceptable.

EDUCATION

The College recognises that drug education needs to be based on sound principles. These are:

- Drug education is best taught in the context of the school health curriculum
- Drug education should be conducted by the teacher of the health curriculum
- Drug education programs should have sequence, progression and continuity over time throughout schooling
- Drug education messages across the school environment should be consistent and coherent
- Drug education programs and resources should be selected to complement the role of the classroom teacher with external resources enhancing not replacing that role
- Approaches to drug education should address the values, attitudes and behaviours of the community and the individual
- Drug education needs to be based on research, effective curriculum practice and identified student needs
- Objectives for drug education in schools should be linked to the overall goal of harm minimisation
- Drug education strategies should be related directly to the achievement of the program objectives
- The emphasis of drug education programs should be on drug use likely to occur in the target group, and use which causes the most harm to the individual and society
- Effective drug education should reflect an understanding of characteristics of the individual, the social context, the drug, and the interrelationship of these factors
- Drug education programs should respond to developmental, gender, cultural, language, socio- economic and lifestyle differences relevant to the level of student drug use
- Mechanisms should be developed to involve students, parents and the wider community in the school drug education program at both planning and implementation stages
- The achievement of drug education objectives, processes and outcomes should be evaluated
- The selection of drug education programs, activities and resources should be made on the basis of an ability to contribute to long term positive outcomes in the health curriculum and the health environment of the school

PROCEDURES

- Students found using drugs or in possession of them, will be referred immediately to the Welfare and Well-being leader, who will appraise the Campus Director of the situation. Parents will be contacted immediately
- Students found in the presence of someone involved with drugs will be referred immediately to the Welfare and Well-being leader
- The students are withdrawn from class whilst the issue is investigated.

In the case of illegal drugs;

- Police are notified, as a matter of course, to make arrangements for disposal, and in the case of larger quantities, to take further action.
- Student(s) involved have their enrolment at Lavalla Catholic College reviewed.
- Students are required to work the College Counsellor to ensure their ongoing wellbeing.

A number of consequences may take place for the student, according to their history and the circumstances of this particular event.

Including but not limited to:

- Detention
- Suspension
- Counselling
- Drug rehabilitation programme
- Contract and return to school
- Negotiated placement at another school
- Enrolment withdrawn.