Drug Policy

Policy Name:	Drug Policy	
Id & version:	HSE:52	
Purpose:	Policy aims to address intervention, prevention and sanctions regarding unlawful and unsafe drug use	
Implementers:	Principal	
Scope:	Staff, Students, Parents and Volunteers	
Owner:	Peter Stone	
Current Review:	April 2025	Authorised by: Peter Stone
		Date: 1 April 2025
Next Review:	March 2027	
Concurrent Policies:	Staff Code of Conduct, Student Code of Conduct	

Overview:

Hope Christian College recognises that drug use is a complex issue and that drug use/abuse problems result from a combination of many factors. This policy aims to contribute to a supportive, caring and safe school environment in which all students can develop the skills required to achieve their full potential. The policy has been developed and is consistent with State and Federal laws. It will aim to address intervention, prevention and sanctions with regard to unlawful and unsafe drug use.

The drug policy is binding on all members of the school community. It will apply to students, staff, volunteer staff, ground staff and other workers while they are on school premises, at a school function or excursion. It is also intended to apply to school visitors and to parents attending any functions held on the school premises.

Definition

For the purpose of this document, a drug is defined as any substance, which when taken into the body, alters its function, physically and/or psychologically. This definition includes all legal and illegal drugs.

Psychoactive Drugs

- Depressants - eg alcohol, opiates, heroin, cannabis
- Stimulants - eg amphetamines, ecstasy, nicotine
- Hallucinogens - eg LSD, cannabis, ecstasy, magic mushrooms
- Others - eg analgesics, prescription drugs

While not classified as illegal drugs, solvents, also called volatile substances or inhalants, are included in the school drug policy.

Policy

[a] Prevention of Unsafe and Unlawful Drug Use

Hope Christian College will follow the guidelines for a harm reduction approach to drug addiction. The school will ensure that the contents of this policy will be made known to all members of the school community through relevant school publications, website and parent handbook and part of the expected code of conduct signed by the students and parents. Students involved in drug use will be encouraged to seek assistance.

[b] Intervention

The following intervention procedures have been designed to address incidents of drug use, in ways which are in the best interest of all parties, while conforming to legal requirements.

Hope Christian College implements the WA Government regulation that the school premises are a Smoke Free Zone.

The Board has determined that any function held on the campus involving students is an Alcohol-Free event.

Hope Christian College does not permit students while in school uniform, on school premises, at any school related functions or on school camps under school care to:

- Possess and/or smoke tobacco products or the use of Vaping paraphernalia
- Possess and/or consume alcoholic beverages
- Possess and/or use prohibited drugs [Misuse of Drugs Act, 1981]
- Possess drug related equipment such as syringes, [except in the case of lawful use], bongs, pipes etc. [Misuse of Drugs Act, 1981];
- Distribute and/or sell illegal substances [including tobacco and alcohol] or drug related equipment or be involved in situations which put other students at risk.
- Possess excessive amounts of legal drugs [medicines].

Responding to Incidents of Drug Use

At all times, the school will respond to incidents of drug use in a manner to ensure the safety, and the emotional and physical health and welfare of the students involved. Each incident will be considered individually by the principal, in consultation with appropriate staff, according to the given set of circumstances at the time.

Confidential records will be maintained about instances of drug use. Staff members who are necessarily informed of drug use will be required to maintain strict confidentiality.

Sanctions

The school regards student possession, use and/or distribution as very serious. Students should be aware that particular behaviours have specific consequences and that sanctions for breaching the appropriate code of conduct may include involvement in education or counselling, parent notification, suspension, police notification and expulsion.

Smoking/vaping – All Offences

Students found smoking or vaping, in possession of cigarettes, supplying cigarettes or in possession of vaping paraphernalia will be liable to a range of sanctions dependent on the circumstances and whether or not it is a repeat offence. Suspension or expulsion.

Alcohol and Solvents

Students found drinking, in possession of alcohol, under the influence of alcohol or misusing solvents will be liable to a range of sanctions dependent on the circumstances including whether or not it is a repeat offence. Suspension or expulsion.

Illicit Drugs

The possession and/or sale of illicit drugs are an offence against the law. Hope Christian College will view either offence as a very serious matter.

Any student found supplying illicit drugs, in possession of illicit drugs or under the influence of illicit drugs at school or on school property will face expulsion. Any students found to have taken or supplied illicit drugs outside of school will face sanctions of the Principal's determination in consultation with appropriate staff. The consequences are suspension or expulsion. Counselling will be made available through referral to the local Community Drug Service Team or to a relevant outside agency.