



## College Guideline

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## Drugs (illicit and unsanctioned substances)

Mount St Bernard College is committed to providing an alcohol, drug, smoke and vape free campus. This policy aims to deliver the college community (students, staff, parents/carers, volunteers, visitors) a clear, consistent message regarding the dangers and consequences of drugs, smoking and vaping, and encourages them to make positive choices that promote healthy lifestyles.

The following document has also been created to adhere to government legislation regarding the possession, use and supply of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, illegal drugs and restricted substances, and the misuse of over-the counter and prescribed medications on school premises, during school activities and by students.

The large amounts of chemicals with known harmful effects, including nicotine, justify Mount St Bernard College taking control measures in exercising a duty of care towards all students.

### Policy

Mount St Bernard College (MSBC) will implement appropriate policies and strategies to ensure schools are free from illicit and unsanctioned substances and their influence, consistent with our college's commitment to the health and safety of all members of our school community.

MSBC will implement appropriate curriculum-related drug education programs focused on prevention and intervention strategies, including their consequences. These actions will be consistent with gospel values and legislative requirements.

### Rationale

MSBC is guided by Gospel values in addition to operating within legislative requirements. The MSBC community has the right to have our safety and welfare protected. MSBC plays a significant role in preparing students for living in society. MSBC can contribute to reducing problems relating to the use and possession of illicit and unsanctioned substances by educating staff, by making information available to parents and students, by providing positive role models, by promoting health and by responding to the students' welfare needs.

Parents and caregivers are crucial partners in the overall education process. A key focus of the MSBC environment should be an education process that empowers parents and equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary to support their children during their formative years, particularly regarding drugs.

For the purpose of this policy illicit substances cover any substance or item whose possession is prohibited under the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. Unsanctioned substances refer to any substance whose possession, while not illegal, is in contravention of school rules (e.g. tobacco products, e-cigarettes, alcohol and certain medicines). This will also include the misuse of prescription medicines.

## Procedure

MSBC will provide education to all students about illicit and unsanctioned substances and the consequences for breaching school policies and procedures. Intervention and support programs are available through MSBC's Wellbeing team to support students to make healthy choices.

Consuming alcohol, drugs, smoking and vaping on or around the campus, in school uniform or in public areas will be viewed as tarnishing Mount St Bernard College's reputation. There are serious consequences for students who do not adhere to college expectations outlined in this document.

### ***Illegal Drug use, possession and/or supply***

Student found to be using, in possession of, or supplying illegal drugs will be externally suspended for a period of up to 10 days. During this time the Executive Director of the CES may be requested to review the student's enrolment at the College. Parents will be informed, and the student will be reported to the CES Child Protection Officer, Police Child Protection and Investigation Unit and the Police will be notified.

If the Executive Director chooses to cancel the student's enrolment, the student will be excluded from the College. Alternatively, if the enrolment is to continue, the student will be required to participate in a formal re-entry meeting with the College Principal or delegate where an Individual Behaviour Support Plan and a Safety Plan will be communicated and agreement signed by the student and parent. This plan includes student participation in a drug awareness program conducted through the College Wellbeing Team.

### ***Students found using or in possession of alcohol***

Students who are found to be using or in possession of alcohol will be:

- Externally suspended for a period of 3-10 school days
- expected to complete a written reflection during the period of suspension
- required to attend a formal re-entry interview on campus with parent/carer.
- this may result in an enrolment review

### ***Students found using or in possession of cigarettes, vapes or e-cigarettes***

- suspended for a period of up to 2 days
- expected to complete a written reflection during the period of suspension
- required to attend a formal re-entry interview on campus with parent/carer.

### ***Students found to be distributing/selling or buying alcohol and/or cigarettes or vaping devices***

Students who are found to be distributing (selling) or buying alcohol, cigarettes or vaping devices will be:

- externally suspended for a period of 10 school days

During this time the Executive Director of CEDC will be requested to review the students' enrolment at the College. Parents will be informed, and the student will be reported to the CEDC Child Protection Officer, Police Child Protection and Investigation Unit and the Police will be notified.

If the Executive Director chooses to cancel the student's enrolment, the student will be excluded from the College. Alternatively, if the enrolment is to continue, the student will be required to participate in a formal re-entry meeting with the College Principal where an Individual Behaviour Support Plan and a Safety Plan will be communicated and agreement signed by the student and parent. This plan includes student participation in a drug awareness program conducted through the College Wellbeing Team.

### ***Students found in the presence of drugs, alcohol and/or a cigarette or vaping device***

Students who are found associating with peers partaking in the use of any illicit substance at the time of the offence, even though they may not have been drinking/consuming/smoking/vaping themselves, will be:

- internally suspended for a period of **one full school day** (i.e. if an incident occurs on one day, the suspension will encompass all of the following day)
- required to attend a re-entry interview on campus with parent

***Students found in a bathroom cubicle/Pod in boarding with other student/s***

Students will be assumed to be engaging in activity that fails to adhere to college expectations, and be:

- internally suspended for a period of **one school day**
- required to attend a re-entry interview on campus with parent

***Please Note:***

- Loitering around public areas (e.g. bathrooms) before, during and after school will be treated with suspicion, and may result in further investigation and consequences
- If investigation into any incident is required, students will be removed from classes while this occurs, and parents/carers will be contacted
- The College Principal will review student enrolment for repeated infringements.

## **Legislation**

*Queensland Government Drug Misuse Act 1986*

*Queensland Government Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011*

***RESOURCES***

Recommended websites include:

- Positive Choices Web Portal – a nationally endorsed portal for teachers, parents and students, containing information and education resources on alcohol and drugs.
- Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) – Government funded foundation delivering project funding, information resources and community support. ADF also have resources specifically for schools and parents.
- The Queensland Government Alcohol and Other Drugs Education Program
- Alcohol and Drug Information Service Help Hotline – 1800 177 833
- Queensland Health Drug Information portal

## **See also (Related Policies and Guidelines)**

Smoking in Schools and CES Workplaces

Codes of Conduct: Staff, and Parents and Volunteers

Safeguarding Children and Young People

*Policy - Vaping & Smoking (2023) Page 4*

Policy: Work Health and Safety

Cairns Catholic Education Statement of Principles for Employment Policy: Alcohol in schools