

# Saint Ignatius College

Geelong

A Jesuit Partner School

## Drug and Alcohol Policy

Guidelines and Procedures

First edition 2007



“ In the Ignatian Tradition we have a personal concern for the whole life of each student. We aim to provide an environment for learning and growth, allowing each individual to develop her/his full potential – spiritually, academically, morally, physically and socially. ”

From the Saint Ignatius College Vision Statement

#### Acknowledgement

Saint Ignatius College Geelong gratefully acknowledge Xavier College, Kew for permitting the use of this Drug Policy as a basis for the development of this policy.

#### Disclaimer

The use of this document is not intended in any way to displace the need for qualified professional advice on any medical or legal issue. It is not intended as medical or legal advice on any matter to which such advice is relevant. Neither Saint Ignatius College, its Board, Principal or Staff accept any liability for any occurrence or claim for damage associated with the use of this document which is intended as a general statement of principle only.

The use of this document by any person constitutes acceptance of this condition.

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## Introduction

Saint Ignatius College strives for a culture that encourages freedom, discipline and self-restraint, where love and service are central to the Ignatian philosophy. The College educates and cares for its students, recognising that this care and education is second only to the care and education given to them by their parents.

Concern for the individual person (*cura personalis*) is a distinguishing feature of Ignatian education. It is within this framework of care for the individual student and concern for the protection of all involved in the College community, that the following policy concerning drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, has been devised.

Saint Ignatius College sees drug abuse as damaging or destructive to the freedom, discipline and self-restraint which are essential to the development of the individual's happiness and fulfilment. Drug-induced conduct or dependency can be gravely injurious to the user and also to others. The use of illegal drugs and the abuse of drugs of any kind is not to be condoned for any member of the Saint Ignatius community.

Drug use and drug abuse are facts of life in contemporary society. Adults and young people may use and abuse drugs for a number of reasons, for a range of complex causes and with varied consequences. Drug misuse impinges on students and schools in many ways: from physical effects on individuals and effects on their social interactions and academic performance, to issues surrounding possession of and dealing in drugs. Saint Ignatius College recognizes that there is a variety of factors shaping students' attitudes and lives outside the school. This policy is established in recognition of an existing community problem which the School is willing to confront in partnership with parents and other responsible caring agencies.

Saint Ignatius College implements this policy in the spirit of concern for the individual as well as care for all members of the Saint Ignatius Community. Students, staff and parents are expected to accept responsibility for the Saint Ignatius College Drug Policy.

Saint Ignatius College aims to develop and maintain a health-promoting environment.

We believe all students have the right to be safe and supported in their school community. The possession, use, selling and distribution of substances such as tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, inappropriately used prescription drugs and illicit drugs constitute a health and safety risk and breach of school rules.

## 1. Education and Prevention

Saint Ignatius College believes that staff, students and parents have a responsibility to discourage the use of all drugs which are detrimental to health and well-being.

In implementing an effective drug education program which includes the sequential Personal Development curriculum and parent information evenings, Saint Ignatius College is concerned to explore the following issues and to address or provide this education in a broader context of health education, which is linked to the spiritual and mental health of students, and which stresses the importance of reflecting and evaluating options and consequences:

- ❑ Facts about drugs which give accurate information about their damaging consequences.
- ❑ Attitudes in which stereotypes and myths are challenged.
- ❑ An examination of the law and drugs; rules, legal rights and coping with the conflict arising.
- ❑ Developing an understanding of the continuum of risks associated with drug use and the ability to refuse to utilise illegal drugs.
- ❑ Developing personal resilience and social skills that equip students to deal with drug related issues in a variety of contexts.
- ❑ Accepting responsibility for one's actions while reflecting on the consequence of one's actions.
- ❑ Developing an understanding of the impact of drug use on our society.
- ❑ Equipping young people to contribute to the public debate about drug issues.

## 2. Definition of Drugs

For the purpose of these guidelines a drug is defined as:

***Any substance, with the exception of food and water, which, when taken into the body, alters its function physically and/or psychologically (World Health Organisation).***

This definition includes all drugs of addiction or dependence, such as medications, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, steroids, amphetamines, as well as solvents which may be inhaled. This document acknowledges the distinction between legal and illegal drugs. Drugs can be broadly defined in three categories: depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens. Possession or use of or trafficking in some of these drugs is a criminal offence under Commonwealth or State laws; such drugs are referred to in this policy as illegal drugs. This policy acknowledges that any drug may be used illegally. However,

those drugs that include cannabis, amphetamines, heroin and many others that are defined under Commonwealth or State laws as forbidden are defined as illegal drugs in this statement of policy.

Harm minimisation, as adopted by State and Federal governments in Australia, involves a range of approaches to prevent and to reduce drug related harm, including abstinence, prevention, early intervention, specialist treatment, supply control and safer drug use.

### **3. Definition of the College Environment**

The College environment refers to official school activities, school buildings and grounds. Students travelling to and from these venues and/or school activities are expected to observe school policies. College activities do not include any private parties or functions, responsibility for which rests with parents.

### **4. Drug Policy : Principles**

Our drug policy is based upon the following principles:

- ❑ The College acknowledges and the School's education program is based on the premise that the only safe use of drugs is no use. Experimentation with drugs involves major risks to personal health, safety and mental well-being. The College accepts the view that experimentation with cannabis and other illegal drugs amounts to flirting with physical and psychological harm. There is evidence that with some individuals, use of marijuana, even as an experiment, can produce acute psychosis. The potential adverse health effects of all drugs, including alcohol and tobacco and other substances such as inhalants, are well-documented.
- ❑ Education and counselling services are necessary. Drug use/abuse may be symptomatic of problems experienced by developing adolescents.
- ❑ Those who experiment with or who become involved in drug abuse and illegal use should be assisted to regain control of their lives and should be informed of what help is available.
- ❑ Saint Ignatius College is responsible for promoting the health and welfare of the students. The misuse of medications, alcohol and tobacco is a significant cause of drug related harm. An evolving and well formulated drug education and pastoral program is being developed and will be maintained within the curriculum.
- ❑ Recognition of the rights of students not to use drugs.
- ❑ Where appropriate, a concerted effort will be made to promote abstinence within a policy of teaching of 'harm minimisation'.
- ❑ The College has a duty to address prevention and intervention as well as to impose sanctions in regard to drug use/abuse.

- ❑ Trafficking or supply of illegal drugs to other persons by any member of the Saint Ignatius Community is totally unacceptable.
- ❑ There will be regular evaluation of the effectiveness of this policy.

## 5. Sanctioned Drug Use

Students' prescribed drug use needs to be monitored with parental support. The School authorities should be notified about any prescribed medication to be taken within the school environment. This medication must be stored in the school office and administered under staff supervision. It is the parent's responsibility to maintain and supply medication. In the case of excursions and camps the following needs to be observed.

- ❑ All medication must be supplied in a seal lock bag with name of student, dosage, time and other relevant information and given to the designated staff first aid officer.

## 6. UNSANCTIONED DRUG USE : College Standard on Tobacco, Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

- ❑ **SMOKING**
- ❑ Smoking is not permitted within the College environment at any time by students.
- ❑ All School buildings are a smoke-free environment.
- ❑ Saint Ignatius College requests all staff, parents and visitors to act as role models for our students by refraining from smoking within the College environment.

### The College Response to Incidents of Tobacco by Students

Saint Ignatius College is concerned with the welfare of all students. While providing appropriate pastoral care for individual students, the school must act upon serious breaches of school policy. These decisions will be made in the light of College, pastoral and civil accountability. The College Principal or his representative will, in all cases, retain a comprehensive discretion in issues that may arise.

The Principal reserves the right to judge whether a student has deliberately violated the School's Standards in a serious manner and to suspend or dismiss him from the school.

The first instance is a Level Two Infringement of the College Acceptable Behaviour Policy.

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## Sanctions

A range of responses applies depending on the circumstances and on whether or not previous offences have been recorded to students found smoking, in possession of tobacco or supplying cigarettes to other students within the College environment.

The range of College responses may include:

- ❑ informing and consulting parents at the earliest possible opportunity;
- ❑ loss of any office held;
- ❑ involvement in relevant learning experiences and activities;
- ❑ counselling strategies in harm minimisation which may result in referral to an outside agency;
- ❑ after school – detention;
- ❑ \$10 donation to the anti-cancer Council;
- ❑ suspension;
- ❑ review of the student’s position at the school

Saint Ignatius College believes it is important to discriminate between the range of responsibilities and development of individual students and groups of students in these matters. The age, previous behaviour and level of involvement of a student will be considered when making decisions.

Please note that tobacco products will be confiscated and may be destroyed.

### ❑ **ALCOHOL**

Students may not be in possession of, under the influence of, consume or intend to consume or supply alcohol to other students within the College environment.

The consumption of alcohol by any adult member of the Saint Ignatius community is permitted within the College environment only in circumstances that have been previously prescribed. However, the determination as to whether alcohol may be consumed on an additional occasion or at a function is to be made by the Principal or the Deputy Principal.

Applications for permission and a copy of the appropriate guidelines are to be addressed to the Principal or the Deputy Principal at least two weeks prior to functions.



## **The College Response to Incidents of Alcohol Use and Abuse by Students**

Saint Ignatius College is concerned with the welfare of all students. While providing appropriate pastoral care for individual students, the school must act upon serious breaches of school policy. These decisions will be made in the light of College, pastoral and civil accountability. The College Principal or his delegate will, in all cases, retain a comprehensive discretion in issues that may arise. The Principal reserves the right to judge whether a student has deliberately violated the School's Standards in a serious manner and to suspend or dismiss the student from the school.

The first instance is a Level Three Infringement of the College's Acceptable Behaviour Policy.

### **Sanctions**

A range of responses applies depending on the circumstances and on whether or not previous offences have been recorded to students found under the influence of, found drinking, in possession of, or supplying alcohol to other students within the College environment other than in accordance with permission given by the Principal or the Head of the relevant campus, and in compliance with any conditions attaching to such permission.

The range of College responses may include:

- ❑ informing and consulting parents at the earliest possible opportunity;
- ❑ loss of any office held;
- ❑ involvement in relevant learning experiences and activities;
- ❑ counselling strategies in harm minimisation which may result in referral to an outside agency;
- ❑ suspension;
- ❑ review of the student's position at the school

Saint Ignatius College believes it is important to discriminate between the range of responsibilities and development of individual students and groups of students in these matters. The age, previous behaviour and level of involvement of a student will be considered when making decisions.

## ❑ **ILLEGAL DRUGS**

The possession of, use of, or dealing in illegal drugs is not permitted at any time within the College environment by students, staff, parents or any members of the public. The possession, use of or any dealing in illegal drugs is a most serious violation of Saint Ignatius College's standards, as well as the law.

Saint Ignatius College views its responsibility to the students placed in its care very seriously. When a problem is seen to arise, the policy empowers the College, the student and parents to work together through the problem, in the best interest of the student. The opportunity exists for the educative process to include a rehabilitation process.

### **The College Response to Incidents of Illegal Drug Use and Abuse by Students**

Saint Ignatius College is concerned with the welfare of all students. While providing appropriate pastoral care for individual students, the school must act upon serious breaches of school policy. These decisions will be made in the light of College, pastoral and civil accountability. The College Principal or his delegate will, in all cases, retain a comprehensive discretion in issues that may arise. The Principal reserves the right to judge whether a student has deliberately violated the School's Standards in a serious manner and to suspend or dismiss him from the school. In instances of serious illegal drug matters, the Principal has a responsibility at law to make a report to the Police. Any illegal drugs found will be handed over to the police.

In the case of student use, possession of or intention to supply illegal drugs within the College environment, appropriate responses will be decided by the Principal, the relevant Head of School and other relevant staff members.

Where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion of drug use or possession, the Head of School may, where practicable, in the presence of the student and another teacher, search personal property. The Principal must be notified of the situation within 24 hours.

Any information will be treated confidentially until a thorough investigation has been completed, at which time it may be deemed necessary to inform the relevant parties.

The College response is designed to consider the emotional and physical health of the student concerned, and the care and the welfare of the students and the wider community of Saint Ignatius College.

The first instance is a Level Three infringement of the College's Acceptable Behaviour Policy.

## Sanctions

A range of responses applies depending on the circumstances and on whether or not previous offences have been recorded:

The range of College responses includes:

- ❑ informing and consulting parents at the earliest possible opportunity;
- ❑ loss of any office held;
- ❑ involvement in relevant learning experiences and activities;
- ❑ counselling which may result in referral to an outside agency;
- ❑ suspension;
- ❑ review of the student's position at the school. The College will view providers/suppliers of mood-altering chemical drugs as people who endanger the health of others. The common good is paramount. Therefore those students who are deemed to be trafficking will be expelled.

Saint Ignatius College believes it is important to discriminate between the range of responsibilities and development of individual students and groups of students in these matters. The age, previous behaviour and level of involvement of a student will be considered when making decisions.

## 7. PROCEDURES:

- ❑ The College requires that members of staff on discovery of drug use within the College environment inform the Principal, Deputy Principal or the relevant Head of School. Saint Ignatius College believes that all staff are responsible for identifying and reporting the behaviour of a student who is at risk of their own or others' drug use, or whom they suspect of being under the influence of a drug.
- ❑ In the event of a student appearing to be under the influence of a drug or drugs, the College administration may seek medical advice. The College will attempt to notify parents/guardians before referral to medical agencies or as soon as possible thereafter.
- ❑ Saint Ignatius College will offer its best endeavours to assist professionals caring for students in developing a management plan for students who engage in problematic or unlawful drug related behaviour. Such a plan will have as its first concern the safety of students and staff and take account of the drug(s) involved, the circumstances and nature of the incident, the student(s) involved and the likely effects of any consequences.

The College continues to offer on-going contact and support to the family after a student has been asked to leave for drug-related reasons. The presence of Chaplains, the Director of the Mission and the School Well-being Officer ensures that students at risk are cared for in a particularly supportive way. We also have access to other support mechanisms/structures outside the school. Referral practices will be clarified and communicated to staff by the Principal or Deputy Principal or the relevant Head of School.