



St Joseph's School Drug Policy

St Joseph's School Northam is a Catholic Education Community who live and interact in the real world on a daily basis. Our Drug Policy while providing a framework to address alcohol, tobacco and other drug related problems in a caring and consistent manner has been devised within the constraints of the Catholic ethos which governs our way of life. Our community seeks to restrict the use of these substances within our school. In attempting to ensure that our School is free of these drugs it is accepting the trust bestowed on us by parents to educate their children in a safe and healthy environment.

The policy is based on two main principles, being first and foremost opposition to drug abuse, and secondly, abstinence from illegal drug use.

DEFINITION

A drug is defined (for the purpose of this policy) as any chemical substance which, when taken into the body, alters its function physically and/or psychologically. This definition includes all drugs such as analgesics, alcohol, amphetamines, heroin, cocaine, cannabis, tobacco, marijuana and other illegal substances which are mind altering or physically debilitating.

AIMS OF THE DRUG POLICY

- To maintain a health-promoting school environment in which the welfare of all school members is paramount.
- To identify the role of St Joseph's School in the prevention of drug related problems.
- To document St Joseph's School's agreed position on, and accepted procedures for dealing with drug related incidents and problems to drug use.
- To be consistent with State and Federal laws and the Archdiocesan Guidelines set down by the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia.



PREVENTION

As a means of prevention and awareness St Joseph's School will undertake to provide:

- On going courses for students within the guidelines of the School Drug Education Project and the Archdiocesan Religious Education Guidelines.
- A practice of Pastoral Care within the school that allows each child to feel valued and a sense of self-worth.
- Regular professional development for staff particularly those teaching RE and Health Education.
- Access to participate in Community Drug Education programs.
- Access for parents to participate in community drug education programs.
- Regular review of this school drug policy.

St Joseph's School has been declared a "Smoke Free" campus.

INTERVENTION

These intervention procedures are designed to address alcohol, tobacco and other drug-related problems to ensure the health and well being of all parties concerned are represented. All intervention procedures conform to legal requirements.

St Joseph's School does not permit students while on school premises, at any school function, excursion or camp to:

- smoke and/or possess tobacco products;
- consume and/or possess alcohol;
- deliberately inhale volatile substances (solvents);
- possess and/or use pharmaceutical drugs for non-medical purposes;
- possess and/or use illegal drugs in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981; or
- possess and/or use drug-related equipment, such as bongs, pipes and syringes (except in the case of lawful medical use).

The Principal must be notified if students need to administer prescribed medicine while at school. (Procedures listed in the School's Medication Policy).

St Joseph's School is committed to the provision of a safe learning environment for all students. When concerns about drug use arise in the school community the school will cooperate with key agencies such as the police to determine what actions are appropriate to maintain a safe environment for students.





SANCTIONS

Each instance will be considered individually and independently according to the given set of circumstances. Cases of drug use/possession are serious offences and as such the school, parents and key agencies work closely to correct the situation. Offending students will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary action.

CONCLUSION

In developing and implementing a Drug Policy, the School reinforces its role in the prevention of drug abuse problems and demonstrates its responsiveness to an issue of community concern.

This Drug Policy is designed to protect the welfare of student and staff by ensuring that incidents involving drug use are addressed rationally and in a manner that reflects the Mission Statement of the School.

This Drug Policy ensures confidentiality and access to counselling if necessary.

This Drug Policy provides a consistent approach while ensuring each incident is dealt with according to the nature of the infringement as well as maintaining the dignity of all those involved.

USEFUL CONTACTS

School Principal (08) 9621 3500

Alcohol and Drug Information Service

(08) 9442 5000 Toll-Free 1800 198 024

Parent Drug Information Service

(08) 9442 5050

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