

DRUGS POLICY

Version: Feb 2018
Reviewed: Feb 2018



LAUNCESTON
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

THE HAZARD - DRUGS (ILLICIT) - STUDENT USE OF

Illegal drug use by students (including the misuse of prescription medication) increases the risk of injury to the students themselves and to others, as well as impairing the ability of students to respond appropriately in an emergency.

LCS RATIONALE

Launceston Christian School (LCS) desires to function under a drugs policy that is consistent with its Scriptural foundations and its Educational Purpose Statement. LCS also aims to recognize that these Scriptures also mandate our obedience to civil authorities where these don't go beyond the boundaries of Scripture. We aim to have a drug policy that will keep LCS as a safe learning environment in the context of a supportive God honouring community.

LCS'S POLICY

LCS is committed to providing a safe environment for all our students, workers and visitors. It is our policy that:

The use, possession and supply of illicit drugs and/or drug paraphernalia (such as pipes or 'bongs') by students is strictly prohibited;

While on school property, or representing the school in any way, students are not permitted to be under the influence of illicit drugs;

All students will receive age appropriate health and drug education to enable and support them to make informed choices, and to minimise the harm associated with drug use; and

Referrals to counselling and support groups will be provided to students with drug related problems.

DEALING WITH A STUDENT AFFECTED BY DRUGS

Where a student exhibits obvious signs of drug use a staff member shall:

- Isolate the student from their peers in a calm and controlled manner (if possible);
- If this is not possible and an impaired student refuses to cooperate and/or becomes agitated, ensure that any other students within the immediate vicinity are removed from harm and attempt to calm the student until such time as other staff members are able to provide assistance;
- Ask the student to accompany them to the school administration office; and
- Contact the Principal or other appropriate senior member of staff to inform them of the situation.

The Principal shall then make an assessment of the student's condition and take appropriate action based on the facts. This may include contacting the student's parents/carers to inform them of the incident and requesting that they remove the student from the school grounds, and/or calling the police in the event that the student is acting in an aggressive or threatening manner.

PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURE

Senior staff to conduct an investigation of the incident.

- Senior staff to immediately inform parents, and in the case of illegal drugs also Tasmania Police.
- In the case of illegal drugs, immediate, mandatory seven day suspension of student/s. This will allow the school leadership team to determine a course of action following discussion with parents and student/s. The confidentiality of the identities and circumstances relating to the situation must be maintained within the circle of school management during this period.
- Principal to inform the Board of the incident and suspension.
- Where LCS, student and parent consensus exists to commit to intervention, accredited counselling activities will commence as soon as is practicable. Where consensus is not immediately achievable the student/s will continue on a second period of suspension for a maximum period of one month to allow for the transgressor/s and parents to reflect on their course of action. After this month, there must be a mandatory review of the suspension and the progress of any rehabilitation and/or counselling programs.
- If no satisfactory arrangement for intervention can be reached after the second suspension period, parents and student/s will be advised of the school's intention to immediately affect expulsion.
- Where intervention processes are satisfactorily commenced, the student/s will immediately re-join the school environment. The student will be free to engage in all school activities (both educational and extra-curricular), that his or her peers are engaged in.
- However, there may be a heightened level of staff supervision of the student as a consequence. All staff involved with the student will be fully briefed about the intervention process.
- A review of progress, with student and parent(s), will be conducted at regular intervals both during and after the intervention process. The regularity of such review is to be such as is deemed necessary to confirm the satisfactory outcome of the process.
- Successful advancement and completion of the process will result in continued enrolment at LCS.
- Lack of progress or failure to participate in the process by student(s) and/or parent(s) will result in cessation of the student's enrolment at LCS.
- Should a student, who has been readmitted to the school after a contravention of this policy through the possession or use of illicit drugs, reoffend according to the terms of this policy, the immediate consequence shall be the termination of the student's current enrolment at Launceston Christian School.

CONSEQUENCES

Drug offences are issues of an extremely serious nature for LCS. The school exercises a drug policy that will not tolerate drugs, but is committed to providing a conditional opportunity for the rehabilitation of the offender/s. Maintaining a child who has been caught experimenting with drugs in the school system is an important factor in reducing risk of progression to habitual drug use.

The suspension of a student for a drug offence has the aim to restore. The policy gives expression to a hatred for the sin, but a love for the sinner. However, for practical purposes in terms of staff resources and protection of the greater student body, grace cannot be extended continually to repeat transgressors.

The final option for expulsion remains both as a tool for deterrence as well as means to protect the student body from re-offenders. This is designed to prevent a revolving-door situation emerging on this issue with re-offending drug-users continually in and out of the school.

CIVIL RESPONSE STATEMENT

To any drug-related incidents at Launceston Christian School, the school will respond according to the Memorandum of Understanding between Tasmania Police and Tasmanian Schools and Colleges – Guidelines for Managing Drug- Related Incidents in Tasmania's Schools.

CHRISTIAN RESPONSE STATEMENT

We believe that the Bible clearly indicates how we should respond in circumstances where students have made inappropriate choices involving the use of drugs. We refer specifically to the Bible's teachings on loving God and our neighbour, embracing grace, protecting the vulnerable and personal conduct.