

DRUGS POLICY

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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'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 on school premises, at functions, excursions, camps, when representing the school, when wearing school uniform and in transit to or from school;
- While on school property, or representing the school in any way, students are not permitted to be under the influence of illicit drugs;
- Any breach of this policy will be considered a Level 3 behaviour breach in accordance with the school's Behaviour Management Policy;
- The school will respond to any drug-related incidents according to the Memorandum of Understanding between Tasmania Police and Tasmanian Schools and Colleges;
- 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 Head of School 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

- Head of School (or delegate of the Principal) will conduct an investigation of the incident.
- Head of School will immediately inform parents, and in the case of illegal drugs also Tasmania Police.
- In the case of illegal drugs, student/s involved will be immediately suspended from school for a mandatory period of 5 days (one term week). This will allow the school Leadership Team to determine a course of action following discussions with parents, student/s and Police.
- The confidentiality of the identities and circumstances relating to the situation must be maintained within the circle of school management during this period.
- The Principal will inform the Board of the incident and suspension.
- Refer to our **Suspension and Expulsion Policy**

CONSEQUENCES

Drug offences are taken very seriously at LCS. Consequences will be consistent with Level 3 behaviour breaches as detailed in the school's **Behaviour Management Policy** and may result in the student/s termination of enrolment.

The Principal, when making any decision regarding consequences must take into account:

- the safety of all students, staff and visitors;
- the seriousness of the student's acts;
- previous behaviour and conduct of the student;
- the response or remorse of the student;
- the pastoral care and welfare of the student;
- the student's prospects for rehabilitation; and
- the ongoing reputation of the school and it's community.

Where appropriate, the school is committed to providing a conditional opportunity for the rehabilitation of first time offenders. Maintaining a child who has been caught experimenting with drugs in the school system is an important factor in reducing the risk of progression to habitual drug use.

RE-ENTRY FOLLOWING SUSPENSION

- Where LCS, student and parent consensus exists to commit to intervention, accredited counselling activities will commence as soon as is practicable.
- The Principal and/or Head of School will set clear conditions for ongoing enrolment and expected standards of behaviour. All staff involved with the student will be fully briefed about the intervention process.
- Additional ongoing consequences for the student/s may include a heightened level of staff supervision and loss of privileges.

- 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 enrolment.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- Staff training;
- Student education via ongoing age appropriate drug education programs integrated into classroom learning;
- Development of drug safe culture by promoting student awareness in drug abuse;
- Effective incident notification procedures;
- Effective communication procedures;
- Effective record keeping procedures; and
- Initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

RELATED POLICIES

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Suspension and Expulsion Policy
- Alcohol (Student Use Of) Policy
- Medication Administration Policy
- Tasmania Police - MOU