



## LOYOLA COLLEGE

### DRUG PREVENTION POLICY

<b>Intended audience</b>	Loyola College Community
<b>Author</b>	DOWAL - Development of Wellbeing at Loyola
<b>Ratifying Body</b>	College Board
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#### PREAMBLE

Loyola College, as a Catholic co-educational College in the Ignatian tradition, seeks the education of the whole person and strives to ensure that each student achieves his or her unique potential. As such we are committed to the wellbeing and safety of all members of our community.

Drug use and drug-related issues confront most communities at some time in varied ways. People in today's society use drugs for medical, recreational and performance enhancing purposes. At Loyola College the use or distribution of any unsanctioned or illegal substance is prohibited. As a community we are aware of the impact harmful drugs/substances have on young people and their families, and accept that in conjunction with parents, governments and the wider community, we have a role to play in reducing the harm which may arise from drug/substance misuse. Consequently Loyola College is committed to providing the students in its care with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions about drug/substance use. In accordance with Catholic Education Melbourne (CEM) policy, Loyola College aims to address the education of use/misuse of drugs/substances, with its student body through a harm minimisation approach, via the curriculum and student wellbeing programs. The approach will be multidimensional providing strategies for prevention, early intervention and specialist support for those with drug/substances-related problems.

#### DEFINITIONS

**Drug:** Defined as any substance, with the exception of food and water, which when taken into the body, alters its function physically and psychologically. This includes all legal and illegal substances.

**Substance use:** This includes the use of tobacco, alcohol and any other non prescribed / non sanctioned medication / substances

**Illicit drug:** A drug of which the production, sale, possession or use is prohibited. An alternative term is 'illegal drug'.

**Sanctioned drug:** Defined as a drug prescribed for medicinal purposes by the treating doctor who has specified dosage and directions for administering, and with written permission from the parent/guardian upon the advice of a general practitioner for use within the school jurisdiction.

**Unsanctioned drug:** A drug for which use is restricted by law, school authorities and/or school policies/guidelines. The term includes illicit, social and prescription drugs.

**Volatile substances:** These are chemicals that give off vapours and fumes at room temperature. These are also known as inhalants or solvents and can include volatile solvents, aerosols, gases, glues and nitrites. These substances have psychoactive properties and their inhalation can be potentially intoxicating.

**Harm minimisation:** Refers to policies and programs aimed at reducing drug-related harm which includes the promotion of abstinence, prevention of anticipated harm, and reduction of actual harm.

**Drug Education:** A term to encompass all policies, practices, programs and initiatives/events in schools connected with the prevention and reduction of drug-related harm. The focus of drug education at Loyola College is to increase student understanding and knowledge of drugs and their effects, as well as the risks associated with drug use. It also involves developing social, critical thinking and problem solving skills so as to equip students with skills to make good choices in relation to drug related issues in a variety of contexts.

**College activities:** Defined as when students are travelling to and from the College or are partaking in any school sanctioned event such as school camps, excursions, interstate or overseas study tours and curricular or co-curricular school-organised functions.

**Drug-related incident:** An occasion involving alcohol, tobacco and/or other illicit or unsanctioned drug use and/or the possession of a drug or drug-related equipment (except for legal medical use).

**Drug-related issues:** All issues associated with drugs, including those that arise from personal use and use by another person or persons.

**Possession:** Occupying or holding a substance either with or without rights of ownership.

**Prevention:** The strategies used to prevent drug use from occurring at all or to delay the onset of use.

**Intervention:** The strategies implemented when responding to drug related issues.

**School drug education:** A term to encompass all policies, practices, programs and initiatives/events in schools connected with the prevention and reduction of drug-related harm.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Loyola College is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment to prevent or reduce drug related harm. Consequently:

- Every student has the right to feel safe in the College environment.
- Standards and expectations for student behaviour are clearly articulated.
- The College environment endeavours to be inclusive and non-judgemental of all students.
- The College will abide by a 'harm minimisation' philosophy.
- A whole-school approach to promote a systematic and practical framework to address drug related issues is used.
- A range of processes and strategies are employed. *Refer to the Procedural Document*
- The support of parents and guardians is paramount.

## **RELATED POLICIES**

Policy 2.13 - Drug Issues in Catholic Schools. 2009(CEM)

Loyola College Restorative Practices Policy

Loyola Drug Prevention Policy Procedural Document

Loyola College Drug Related Critical Incident Procedural Document

Related Policies – Dept of Education and Training