



# Drug Education Management Policy

## Purpose

MacKillop Catholic College exists to educate and form students in Catholic discipleship: offering them experiences of following Jesus as members of the Catholic community. MacKillop Catholic College operates within a comprehensive, integrated God-centred view of reality, the Catholic worldview. In its education and formation of young people, MacKillop Catholic College actively promotes the Catholic worldview and its understanding of creation. The Catholic worldview affirms every individual person as made in the image of God (Gen 1:27) and encourages all to exercise stewardship of that creation. MacKillop Catholic College seeks to transform the individual through sharing of the Catholic vision and story, and offering its student opportunities to apply that worldview to all aspects of school life, and life outside of school.

Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to people by God, and the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 5:19). Accordingly MacKillop Catholic College prohibits all unsanctioned drug use on the school property or at school events. MacKillop Catholic College tries to prevent drug experimentation and use by students. MacKillop Catholic College responds appropriately to the harm that may arise, basing all intervention on the values of the Gospel.

## Policy Framework

MacKillop Catholic College is committed to the development of its learning and work environment as a faith and educational community which:

- Takes as its foundation the person and gospel of Jesus Christ;
- educates and forms students in Catholic Discipleship;
- integrates faith with life and contemporary culture;
- fosters the dignity and development of each person.

MacKillop Catholic College takes a whole school approach to managing drug related issues and focuses on:

- promotion of a positive, hope-filled understanding of the human person, graced by God with free will, capable of taking moral responsibility for actions and guided by a sense of meaning and purpose in life;
- prevention through drug education and a safe and supportive school environment;
- intervention through appropriate procedures for dealing with drug related incidents at school and support for students and families who may be involved. Drug issues are approached within the context of the pastoral care policy and the school's student management policy. These provide a systematic and practical framework within which MacKillop Catholic College can manage drug related issues.



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The whole school approach to pastoral care taken at MacKillop Catholic College has enabled the College to develop, implement and review effective preventative drug education programs and practices for managing drug related incidents. This approach is summarised below:



## Curriculum and Teaching and Learning

Drug education at MacKillop Catholic College is provided within the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) syllabus. Other opportunities and specific programmes are initiated in relation to drug education to provide students with an opportunity to gain knowledge and skills and to develop chosen attitudes and values that enable them to make informed decisions relating to drug use.

Drug education programs used at MacKillop Catholic College are based on:

- providing clear information on and the advocacy of Catholic Church teaching
- developing student self-esteem, sense of belonging, decision-making skills and resilience
- a harm minimisation approach which focuses on messages of abstinence when dealing with all forms of drug use with the exception of medication
- increasing student awareness and understanding of the consequences of drug use and their ability to respond in situations of risk.



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## Pastoral Care Programmes

A positive school climate is fundamental to providing an environment where students' physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs are met. Such a climate is nurtured at MacKillop Catholic College through shared spiritual values and beliefs, justice and compassion, belonging and connectedness, and success at school.

MacKillop Catholic College:

fosters an inclusive school environment in which its pastoral care program builds a sense of achievement and belonging for all students and provides monitoring and support for students at risk

incorporates policy and procedures for illicit and other unsanctioned drug use into the school's student management policy:

- o clear rules about drugs in school and procedures to address drug related incidents are made known to students, parents and school staff;
- o procedures that may need to encompass a range of incidents such as smoking at school, drinking on a school excursion and possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs at school.

## Partnerships and Services

Drug use is an issue for the whole community. MacKillop Catholic College needs to work collaboratively with parents, the church, the Catholic Schools Office and community agencies, to maximise its effectiveness in preventative drug education and practices for managing drug related incidents.

MacKillop Catholic College has a significant role to play in providing information to parents about drug related issues through strategies such as parent information forums, a school counsellor forum and school newsletters. The school and community cannot address the issue of student drug use without parental support. It is essential that the messages for positive health behaviours are consistent at school and at home. The parent/guardian should:

be informed about, participate in the development of and actively support the school drug education and management policy

be prepared to attend a drug education program for parents to assist them to better deal with the issue of young people and drug use

acknowledge that the school alone cannot solve or prevent problems and therefore needs parental support.

It is essential for the school to work in partnership with parents and the community.

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## Illicit (or Illegal) Drugs

Illicit substances are not permitted on the school premises or at school sanctioned events. The following drugs are illicit in NSW: cannabis, hallucinogens (LSD, mescaline, ketamine), heroin, cocaine, ecstasy and amphetamines.

## Restricted Legal Drugs

### Tobacco

The sale of tobacco products to people under the age of 18 is prohibited. No tobacco usage is permitted within school grounds or at school sanctioned events. Staff, parents, visitors and community members are required to refrain from its use on school premises.

### Alcohol

Alcohol must not be consumed on or brought to school premises during school hours. If alcohol is served at any school function or within the school outside school hours, prior permission must be obtained from the principal. Any use of alcohol is subject to the laws and regulations regarding the supply, serving and consumption of alcohol.

## Legal Drugs and Substances

### Dispensing Medication

Arising from the duty of care that schools owe to their students, there will be occasions when the administration of medication is necessary to support students during the course of a normal school day or outside of normal school hours. Once it has been established that a student has a need for medication, it is important that school personnel authorised to administer medication do so in accordance with the College's Work Health and Safety Policy and the Guidelines for Administering Medication in Schools.

## Inhalants (Volatile Substances)

Volatile substances are compounds that give off vapours and fumes at room temperature. Volatile substances are known as solvents and inhalants. They are not classified as. Volatile



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