



Topic:	Drug Policy
CECWA Policy:	No Corresponding CECWA Policy
Policy Area:	Inter-relationships
Date Released:	2009
Review Date:	2019
Next Review:	2022

1. Rationale

Drug use is a controversial and complex issue for all schools and prevention requires a comprehensive and holistic approach.

The College:

- promotes the individual's appropriate and responsible use of medicinal drugs
- prohibits the possession, use and/or distribution of an illegal drug, alcohol or tobacco products and any drug related equipment

The College Drug Policy aims to:

- document the College community's agreed position on, and accepted procedures for dealing with, drug related incidents
- promote a healthy, safe, supportive and caring environment for students in the College
- be consistent with State and Federal laws and the guidelines set down by the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia

2. Definitions

A drug is defined as any substance, with the exception of food and water, which when taken into the body alters its function physically and/or psychologically. This includes analgesics, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, amphetamines. While not classified as drugs, solvents (also called volatile substances) are included in the College Drug Policy.

3. Prevention

Strategies include:

- designating the College as a smoke free zone
- providing drug education and the development of interpersonal skills through a comprehensive Health Education programme
- providing opportunities within the Religious Education curriculum for students to reflect on, discuss and learn processes that assist in making good decisions, forming a Christian conscience and living life true to Christian values
- providing opportunities for professional development for staff about youth drug issues
- providing opportunities for parents to participate in drug education programmes and workshops
- publicising the College's Drug Policy to all members of the College community.

4. Rules

Holy Cross College does not permit students to:

- be in possession of or smoke tobacco products
- be in possession of or consume alcoholic beverages
- deliberately inhale solvents

- possess drug related equipment such as syringes (except in the case of lawful medical use), pipes or other smoking implements etc (Misuse of Drugs Act, 1981) or equipment related to the use of tobacco or alcohol related products
- possess or use prohibited drugs in accordance with the 1981 Act
- misuse any prescribed medication
- consume or be under the influence of pharmaceutical drugs not prescribed to the student
- distribute any of the above.
- encourage other students to become in any way involved in the use, and/or distribution of any of the above.

This policy pertains to a student who, at any time is:

- on school premises
- in school uniform
- traveling to or from school
- at any College function, excursion or camp
- representing the College at any organised educational, social, sporting or public function

5. Consequences

The College acknowledges that, in the process of learning how to make decisions, some individuals will make errors of judgement. In making decisions on appropriate consequences for students discovered infringing the College's Drug Policy the needs of both the individual and College community will be taken into account. Each instance will be considered separately according to the set of circumstances existing at the time.

In each instance, the Principal and appropriate staff will determine which support services are to be called upon, who is to be informed and any sanctions to be imposed. Students will be required, with their parents/guardians, to attend an interview at the College.

With investigations relating to illegal drugs, the College will involve the police. In the absence of a student's parent or guardian a teacher will always be present at any police interview that takes place on the school premises.

6. Cigarettes

Catholic schools are smoke free environments. Smoking is not permitted on the grounds or in the buildings of Holy Cross College. Students found smoking, in possession of cigarettes or supplying cigarettes to other students will be liable to a range of sanctions dependent on the circumstances and whether or not it is a repeated offence.

These sanctions include:

- mandatory suspension for a minimum two days
- community service
- possible exclusion if a repeated offence

7. Alcohol, Solvents and Legal Drugs

Students found drinking alcoholic beverages, in possession of alcohol, supplying alcohol to other students, or misusing solvents or legal drugs, will be liable to a range of sanctions dependent on the circumstances and whether or not it is a repeated offence.

These sanctions include:

- mandatory suspension for up to one week
- possible referral to outside agency
- exclusion if a serious or repeated offence.

8. Illegal Drugs

In any case where a student is in possession of, uses or supplies illegal drugs the police will be notified. If a student supplies illegal drugs to another student, he/she should consider they have forfeited their enrolment at the College. In such cases this action will be taken after consultation with parents and in accordance with guidelines established by the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia.

Any student found using illegal drugs will be immediately suspended. A review of the student's enrolment will be undertaken by the Principal and it will be at the Principal's discretion whether the student continues their enrolment at the College. In general, it is highly likely that the student has forfeited their place at the College. Should the student be permitted to retain their position, he/she will be placed on probation and return on strict contract. The following sanctions will apply:

- referral for counselling
- community service
- other action deemed appropriate by the Principal