



Mary MacKillop College
Kensington

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Substance Abuse Policy

Be a
MacKillop
girl...

know more • do more • be more

Rationale

Mary MacKillop College's Substance Abuse Policy is written with its motto, "In Omnibus Caritas" (In All Things Love), clearly in mind. The Gospel values of love and dignity reflect our community's efforts to assure the right of every member to a safe environment and the responsibility of every person to promote safe practices. Learning and personal growth takes place when everyone within the community feels safe.

Aims and Objectives

With safety and good health as its paramount aims, this policy supports students, parents/guardians and staff in their endeavours to make informed decisions about illicit and other unsanctioned substances and drugs in light of the:

- College's response to illicit/unsanctioned use of substances and drugs;
- access to support services;
- use and management of medication;
- provision of drug education in the curriculum;
- enhancement of healthy life choices;

The possession, use and/or distribution of illicit and other unsanctioned substances is not acceptable at Mary MacKillop College. The College opposes the inappropriate use of legal drugs and substances and the possession of drug-related objects unless medically authorised. This policy applies to student attendance on College premises, at College functions, excursions, and camps, and when students are representing the College or wearing the College uniform.

Mary MacKillop College does not permit students to:

- smoke or possess tobacco;
- consume or possess alcoholic beverages;
- use or possess illegal/unsanctioned drugs;
- misuse prescribed or over-the-counter medicines, drinks and food substances;
- misuse solvents and other chemical agents;
- be under the influence of any of the above;
- sell, supply, exchange or negotiate in relation to any of the above;
- possess drug-related objects unless medically authorised.

The range of responses to drug-related incidents will take into account the nature of the incident, the circumstances of the student(s) involved, including age and developmental considerations, and the needs and safety of others in the College.

If a breach of the College's expectations exists or is suspected, some or all of the following responses will occur:

- assessment of the immediate health status of the student and the seeking of medical assistance, if required;
- confiscation and identification of any substances;
- preliminary investigation to establish the facts;
- informing parents/guardians of student(s) involved;
- formal interviews with student(s) involved;
- contacting SAPOL if the substance is suspected as illegal;
- involving the parents/guardians in the resolution of the incident.

Where there is a reasonable suspicion that a student has an illegal/unsanctioned substance in their possession, the Principal or appointed nominee, accompanied by another adult, may request to search that student's person, possessions, locker and bag, in accordance with procedural guidelines set by the Catholic Education Office.

Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as is reasonably possible and any police involvement will be at the Principal's discretion. Furthermore, a Mandatory Notification will be made.

A breach of the College's expectations will incur some or all of the following consequences:

- placement upon a negotiated contract between student, parent/guardian and the College (this contract may require attendance at counselling or treatment programs);
- police involvement;
- detention for an appropriate time relevant to the breach;
- suspension (internal or external);
- expulsion or negotiated transfer of the student.

Access to Support Services

College-based confidential support on drug issues, and as follow-up to drug-related incidents, is available through the College Counsellor/s for students, parents/guardians and staff. The College also may refer parents/guardians and students to drug counsellors, Child Adolescent & Mental Health Services (CAMHS) or other services depending on need. 24 hour information and counselling is available through a number of agencies, including:

- Kids Help Line 1800 55 1800
- Parent Help Line 1300 364 100
- Alcohol & Drug Information Service 1300 13 1340

Use and Management of Medication

Non-prescription medication will ONLY be administered by the College to students whose parents/guardians have provided written permission via the Student Medical Information Form. In the case of home-provided medications, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the College with storage and administration being negotiated between all parties on a case-by-case basis, in line with College protocol.

Provision of Drug Education in the Curriculum

As part of Mary MacKillop College's efforts to be a health promoting school, the curriculum aims to be proactive. It encourages healthy life choices and harm minimisation strategies. Mary MacKillop includes Drug Education at through its Pastoral Care Program, Science and Physical Education programs. Issues involving alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and other illicit drugs are addressed. Some senior subject curriculum also addresses drug issues. Curriculum review is an ongoing process through the College Curriculum Committee. It is a goal of the committee to assure that Drug Education reaches every student at every year level.

Enhancement of Healthy Life Choices

Mary MacKillop College encourages its students to make healthy life choices through:

- the College's extensive curriculum at each year level;
- encouraging active participation in its broad co-curricular program;
- the availability of one-to-one or small group counselling, problem solving and conflict resolution.