



Substance Abuse Policy

Purpose

The aim of this policy is to develop and maintain a safe learning environment for all members of the College Community by protecting students health and wellbeing and adhering to legal requirements. 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.

Definition

Substance abuse: relates to the abuse or illegal use of substances that can be harmful to one's health such as alcohol, tobacco, vapes or other drugs.

Implementation

- Drug & Alcohol education will be part of our Pastoral Care Program and Curriculum.
- All staff and students will be made aware of the policy on substance abuse
- The College will detail its procedures for students who need to take prescribed or non prescribed medications in the Parent Handbook and Student Diary
- There will be clear management and support strategies for matters pertaining to drug use/abuse
- The College will deal with breaches of this policy keeping the safety and welfare of all students at the forefront.

Responsibilities

The possession, use and/or distribution of illicit and other unsanctioned substances is not acceptable at Mary MacKillop College. 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, or vape
- 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.

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;
- Suspension (internal or external);
- Expulsion or negotiated transfer of student.