



ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS POLICY



CONTEXT:

The policy aims to promote the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to live a healthy and fulfilling life.

The policy is designed to contribute to developing and maintaining a safe living and learning environment for all members of the school community.

PRINCIPLES:

Cura Personalis (concern for the individual person) remains a basic characteristic of Jesuit education⁷ (The Characteristics of Jesuit Education, para. 43). Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview seeks to establish a safe and caring community in which drug and alcohol issues are dealt with in an informed, just and compassionate manner. Particular principles upon which the response to drug and alcohol are based include:

- all students, staff and visitors have the right to a safe school environment, which is free of illegal drugs and the inappropriate use of prescription medications and alcohol;
- the College has an educational role to increase student and staff awareness about the legal and health-related consequences of the possession of illegal drug and the effects of illegal drug usage, as well as the excessive effects of irresponsible use of legal drugs such as tobacco and alcohol;
- support for students, parents and staff in the endeavour to live by Christian values;
- promotion of respect for self and others;
- promotion of an environment where spiritual, social, emotional, intellectual and physical well-being are nurtured and developed;
- the importance of informed decision-making about the use of drugs and alcohol in the community;
- clear management and support strategies for matters related to drug and alcohol use and abuse;
- communication between students, parents and other interested parties on health promotion in the school community;

PROCEDURES:

Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview, will:

- make explicit to its community that irrespective of age, the College does not condone the use of illegal drugs and/or the consumption of serving of alcohol by students at school or at school events and functions;
- inform all students, parents and staff of the procedures and possible consequences of suspected and/or identified incidents of illegal drug possession/usage, illegal possession/consumption of alcohol by a minor and the inappropriate use of prescription medications, alcohol and performing enhancing drugs;
- provide resources to support class activities which educate students about personal responsibility, harm minimisation and appropriate action against drug problems;

- take necessary precautionary actions in situations where there is a higher potential for drug and alcohol abuse, (e.g. out of class and/or at school organised activities and sporting events), to ensure these risks are minimised;
- provide drug and alcohol counselling as required.

Education Initiatives:

At Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview, the education program will:

- promote healthy life choices through a knowledge and understanding of health issues;
- include discussion of the harmful use of legal medications, alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs and performance enhancing substances;
- encourage open and informed discussion of critical health issues;
- encourage parental involvement;
- upon request, facilitate educational opportunities for parents.

Medication Management:

In the case of **Prescribed Medications**, it is the responsibility of the caregiver to:

- inform the School of any relevant details related to the medication provided, and
- wherever possible, promote their child's own responsible management of that medication.

Reference to Non-prescribed medication, e.g. Analgesics

- non-prescribed medication, e.g. Paracetamol, will be supplied at the discretion of School Nurse if written consent has been provided.

The storage and administration of such medication will be negotiated between parents and the School Nurse, on an individual basis.

Incident Management:

When non-sanctioned drug use occurs at the school a systematic understanding of, and response to the situation, will be involved. Accordingly;

When

- at school,
- in school uniform,
- representing and supporting the school,
- or on any occasion when the staff of the School have responsibility for an individual student or group of students.

Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview, does not allow students to:

- smoke tobacco;
- consume alcoholic beverages;
- possess or use illegal drugs;
- misuse prescribed or non-prescribed drugs, including performance enhancing substances;
- misuse solvents and other chemical agents;
- possess drug related objects unless medically authorised.

Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview prohibits:

- the possession, sale, supply, exchange or negotiation in relation to any of the above.

If a breach of these expectations is suspected, some or all of the following actions will occur:

- assessment of the immediate health status of the student, and resort to medical assistance, if required;
- confiscation and identification of any substances;
- preliminary investigation to establish the facts;
- information conveyed to caregivers of the student(s) involved;
- formal interviews with the student(s) concerned;
- the involvement of caregivers in the resolution of the incident;
- contact with the police, if the substance is suspected to be illegal;
- contact with the Education Drug Division Intervention Team to offer counselling, support and harm minimisation strategies (https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/contact_us).

Consequences for the student, depending upon the seriousness of the breach, could include any of the following:

- placement upon a contract between student, caregivers and school. This contract may require attendance of counselling and/or treatment programmes.
- Detention.
- Suspension.
- Termination of enrolment.
- Police action.

Supplements (College Guidelines)

At Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview, students who commit to multiple training sessions each week and play/compete at the more elite levels are educated in relation to nutritional concepts that optimise performance. Our coaches stress the importance of a general, well balanced diet. Further emphasis is given to the ideal nutrition in critical times such as 2-3 hours prior to exhaustive exercise and the thirty-minute and two hour period post exercise. It is emphasised that real food is the platform for good health and elite performances. The college does not recommend or supply any performance enhancing substances. These include substances such as Creatine, pre-workout drinks and protein powders. The taking of such substances can be harmful. Always seek advice from parents, medical professionals and nutritionists.

REFERENCES:

A 24 hour information and crisis support is provided on.....	13 13 40
Kids Help Line.....	1800 55 1800
Lifeline.....	13 11 14