



VILLANOVA COLLEGE

DRUG ALCOHOL AND SMOKING PRODUCTS PREVENTION POLICY

1. Purpose or Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to prevent the Possession, use, or Supply of Alcohol, Smoking Products or Illicit Drugs (Prohibited Substances) by Students. The College aims to protect its Students by prohibiting and reducing the likelihood of access to these Prohibited Substances. There is also prevention through its education program, personal development programs and other means such as involving students in a variety of wholesome and worthwhile co-curricular activities.

This policy aims to be comprehensive, combining intervention with prevention. There will be intervention where the College is able to identify Students at risk.

This policy is based on principles of harm minimisation. It is founded on the Augustinian values of interiority, search for truth and community which are important in developing in students a sense of self respect, self-discipline and responsibility in all areas of their lives. It follows the belief of St Augustine that every person is called to the ideals of wisdom, spiritual truth and a commitment to the quality of community life. By contrast, alcohol abuse, or the use of Smoking Products or Illicit Drugs, risks fostering the addictive urge in the human personality and can lead to the destruction of community relationships and human life itself.

This policy is also designed to best respond to the interests of the Student concerned, while respecting the duty of care to other Students, Employees and other members of the College community.

2. Policy

Villanova Students have the right to attend a College where their safety and welfare is positively promoted.

Villanova College takes a strong, proactive stance against Student involvement with Alcohol, Smoking Products and Illicit Drugs all of which are detrimental to the health and well-being of Students.

The College strives to:

- a) educate the whole school community (Students, Parents, Employees) in the value of a healthy lifestyle, and in the threat posed by the use of any Prohibited Substance to this healthy lifestyle;
- b) respond appropriately to a Student's involvement with any Prohibited Substance.

3. Implementation

3.1 Scope of Policy

This policy covers all Students, including those aged 18 years and over, when they are on College Property or at a College Event.

3.2 Responsibilities

(1) College Responsibilities

The College acknowledges its responsibility to:

- Implement and monitor this policy to help ensure the safety of Students;
- Communicate this policy to Students, Parents and Employees;
- Encourage Students, Parents and Employees to contribute to a healthy College culture;

- Keep proper records of all reports made or pastoral or disciplinary action taken in relation to a breach of this policy;

(2) Employees and Voluntary Workers Responsibilities

Employees and Voluntary Workers have a responsibility to:

- Uphold the College's policy on this issue;
- Try to prevent and appropriately respond to any instances of Possession, use, or supply of any Prohibited Substance or Related Equipment on College Property or at a College Event, in accordance with this policy;
- Report any incidence of breach of this policy to the Principal;
- Not use Smoking Products when on College Property.

(3) Parent Responsibilities

Parents have a responsibility to:

- Read and understand, and ensure their child understands, this policy;
- Adopt reasonable and reliable supervision of their child and support the appropriate implementation of this policy;
- Ensure, as far as possible, that their child does not, Possess, use, or supply any Prohibited Substance or Related Equipment;
- Not use Smoking Products when on College Property.

3.2 Prevention

(1) Prohibitions

The College does not permit Students when on College Property or at a College Event to:

- Possess, consume or supply Alcohol or Smoking Products;
- Possess, use or supply Illicit Drugs;
- Possess, use or supply prescribed or medicinal drugs for non-medical purposes;
- Possess, use or supply Smoking Products and/or drug Related Equipment except in the case of lawful medical use;
- Use inappropriately solvents, inhalants, or other industrial products.

(2) Prescribed or Medicinal Drug Use

Students who need to use prescribed and medicinal drugs when on College Property or at a College Event must:

- have written approval of a Parent; and
- inform an appropriate Employee (e.g. Head of School, school psychologist, counsellor, pastoral leader or teacher).

Student use of prescribed and medicinal drugs is governed by the Villanova College Student Medication Policy.

(3) Alcohol Supply at College Functions

It is an offence under the Liquor Act 1992 (Qld) to obtain alcohol for, or supply alcohol to, young people under 18 years of age. If alcohol is to be served at a College function on College Property or at a College Event where Students are present, the College must issue a warning concerning the Liquor Act to adults conducting the function. The Principal or Principal's delegate shall require those involved in these functions to abide by specified conditions. The function organiser is responsible for ensuring that the specified conditions are observed. The specified conditions are:

- a choice of beverage is to be available for those attending, including an ample supply of non-alcoholic beverages;
- all drinks are to be served in a suitable environment, by responsible persons;
- no Student is to be served alcohol;
- any person behaving objectionably will be required to leave the premises.

(4) Performance Enhancing Substances

All Students and coaches are reminded that those Students who compete in state or national competitions may be subject to random drug testing. No Performance Enhancing Substances are to be recommended or supplied by College sport masters, coaches or athletes.

(5) Education Program

The College's Education Program is underpinned by its value-led approach to authentic pastoral care and its commitment to take a whole-of-College approach to the wellbeing of Students. The program has two inter-related components of education and referral and counselling.

(i) Health Education Program

The College seeks to educate its students at the various stages of schooling in the value of a healthy lifestyle, and in the threat posed by Smoking Products and drug and alcohol abuse to this healthy lifestyle.

The College's Health Education Program includes the teaching of factual information about addictive substances, attitudes and values, decision-making skills and appropriate information about support systems.

The College also strives to provide education for Parents and Employees in the social realities surrounding alcohol abuse, the use of Smoking Products and Illicit Drugs and to make them aware of the education program and resources being used in the College.

(ii) Referral and Counselling

The pastoral care system which exists in the College provides a structure for referral and counselling. Specialist support for Students, Parents and Employees is provided by the Chaplain and Student Counsellors.

The College makes counselling services available to Students and Parents who voluntarily seek help with issues associated with the use of Alcohol, Smoking Products and Illicit Drugs. Discretion and confidentiality will be observed as requested.

3.4 Intervention

The College will provide an intervention component for any Student for whom preventative curriculum efforts have been unsuccessful and who is identified as being at risk. Incidents will be dealt with in a positive, supportive manner and in the best interests of the Student, Employees, general College Community and the College.

Where a Student is identified as being at risk, a confidential interview can be arranged with the Student to attempt to determine whether a problem exists and to select a course of action.

3.5 Response by the College to a Student's involvement with Prohibited Substances

(1) Searching and Confiscating Property

The College may search a Student's locker, bag and personal belongings on College Property and at a College Event where it is reasonable to do so or as part of a general random search and may confiscate Prohibited Substances and/or Related Equipment.

The College will not provide any compensation for confiscated property.

(2) Reporting to Police

While the College is not legally required to report a Student's Possession (or alleged Possession) of Alcohol, Smoking Products or Illicit Drugs other than Illegal Drugs to police, the College will report relevant matters to Police when it is in the Student's or the College community's best interests.

It will also report relevant matters to Police when on College Property or at a College Event:

- a Student is supplying Illegal Drugs or Related Equipment

- a Student is consuming Illegal Drugs
- a Student is found to be in Possession of Illegal Drugs or Related Equipment. .

(3) Restorative Practices Approach

In dealing with instances of the use of Prohibited Substances on College Property or at a College Event, the College will employ, where it is possible to do so, a restorative practices approach that seeks to make good any damage done to individuals or to the community as a whole. The College will endeavour to make these occurrences an educative opportunity for those concerned. This approach may include any Student who has breached this policy and has a dependency on a Prohibited Substance or be suffering some physiological or psychological harm.

(4) Consequences for Breach of Policy

Students who supply Illicit Drugs to others may be asked to find another school to continue their schooling, if the Principal, in consultation with the College leadership team, judges this to be in the best interests of the Student and the College Community. The College will attempt to assist in the placement of a Student who has been asked to leave and provide counselling for him upon request.

The response of the College to other breaches of this policy will take into account the nature and circumstances of the breach, and the record of the Student. The physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health and well-being of Students is the priority.

Responses available to the College include:

1. informing and consulting Parents;
2. providing counselling;
3. loss of privileges;
4. suspension from the College;
5. referral to external agencies;
6. notification of Police;
7. transfer to another school.

Responses by the College will be appropriate to the special circumstances of each individual case. The Principal, in consultation with the College leadership team, retains the right to decide upon appropriate responses in all circumstances. Any Student who has committed a drug-related breach of this policy may be asked to undertake regular drug testing in addition to any other response.

4. Definitions

The terms defined in this clause have the following meaning unless the context indicates otherwise:

'Alcohol' means liquor as defined in the Liquor Act 1992 (Qld)

College Event includes those events directly under the control of the College as well as those events which may be interpreted as being under College control. Such events may include:

- a) travelling to and from College Property;
- b) situations where the College uniform is worn; or
- c) any camp, excursion, competition, sporting meeting, rehearsal or other activity which has been endorsed by the College as being a College activity.

College Property means not only College buildings and the surrounding grounds at its Coorparoo campus and Villanova Park but also includes buildings and the surrounding grounds at out-of-classroom programs, activities and facilities approved of or under the jurisdiction of the College.

Employee means all persons employed by the College, including prospective Employees.

Illicit Drugs are taken to include Illegal Drugs, non-prescription drugs as well as legal or pharmaceutical drugs and substances when used for non-medical (i.e. recreational) purposes or when taken in amounts which exceed the dose recommended for that particular drug. Examples would include cannabis, dexamphetamine used for non-medical purposes and inhalants such as spray paints, petrol and glue.

Illegal Drugs are any dangerous drugs as defined in Schedules 1 and, or 2 of the Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987, as amended.

Parent means the parent / guardian / carer of a Student including a prospective Parent.

Performance Enhancing Substances includes 'legal' substances such as creatine, body building powders, vitamin supplements and sodium bicarbonate.

Prohibited Substance refers to Alcohol, Smoking Products and Illicit Drugs prohibited by the College.

Possession means to have in your control.

Related Equipment refers to any piece of equipment for use or in connection with the manufacture, smoking, consumption or administration of an Illicit Drug or Smoking Product including such items as syringes, bongs or pipes.

Smoking Product means a tobacco product, herbal cigarette, loose smoking blend, electronic cigarettes, also known as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, vape pens or personal vaporiser, or personal vaporiser related product.

Student means a prospective or current student of the College.

Supply means to provide, distribute, sell or trade.

5. Review

This policy is to be reviewed after 3 years or earlier to take account of any changes to relevant legislation or regulations, changes to the College's operations and practices and to make sure it remains appropriate to the changing environment.

Review Date: 21 November 2021.

Endorsement: This policy was approved and endorsed by the Villanova College Board on 21 November 2018.