



MANDURAH CATHOLIC COLLEGE

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

DRUG, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & VAPING PROCEDURE

CECWA POLICY:	Community
EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE:	Student Safety, Wellbeing and Behaviour
COLLEGE PROCEDURE:	Drug Alcohol and Tobacco
REVIEWED:	2024
NEXT REVIEW:	2027

"Mandurah Catholic College is a learning community seeking truth by living out the Gospel values through the Catholic faith and by promoting the holistic and optimal development of each student."

School-based Procedures are not variations to CEWA Executive Directives. They enact contextual decisions; they have the legal obligation of CECWA policy for people acting under the authority of the Principal.

Please note this document is to be read in conjunction with the CECWA Policy – [Community](#) and the Executive Directive – [Student Safety, Wellbeing and Behaviour](#)

AIM

A drug is defined as any substance, except for food and water, which when taken into the body alters its function physically and/or psychologically. This definition covers all drugs, including but not limited to, analgesics, alcohol, tobacco, vapes, cannabis, amphetamines, prescribed legal drugs. While not classified as drugs, solvents such as glue and petrol sniffing are included.

Drug and alcohol use problems result from a combination of many different factors that affect the wellbeing and educational outcomes of students. There is an emphasis on prevention through drug education and a safe and supportive school environment with intervention and support for students who may become involved.

Illegal drug use by students (including the misuse of prescription medication) increases the risk of injury to the students themselves and to others, as well as impairing the ability of students to respond appropriately in an emergency. Alcohol is a depressant drug that slows brain activity responses and impairs co-ordination. The consumption of alcohol by students increases the risk of injury to the students themselves and to others, as well as impairing the ability of students to respond appropriately in an emergency. The effects of alcohol can be magnified when consumed in conjunction with other substances, including prescription drugs.

Because a child's body is still growing, teens and youth are vulnerable to the deadly effects of smoking. Smoking (tobacco or vapes) by children and adolescents hastens the onset of lung function decline during late adolescence and early adulthood and is related to impaired lung growth, chronic coughing, and wheezing.

SCOPE

Mandurah Catholic College students, staff and the wider community.

PRINCIPLES AND RULES

Mandurah Catholic College (MCC) is committed to providing a safe environment for all our students, workers and visitors. It is our Procedure that:

- The possession, use and supply of illicit drugs (such as Cannabis, Heroin, Ecstasy, Cocaine, LSD, Meth etc), alcohol, vapes or tobacco by students is strictly prohibited.
- The possession, use and supply of excessive amounts of pharmaceutical drugs is strictly prohibited.
- Deliberately inhaling insolvents or misusing or supplying personal medication is strictly prohibited.
- The use and possession of drug paraphernalia (such as pipes, 'bongs' and syringes) are prohibited except in the case of lawful medical use such as the use of needles by a person with diabetes to administer insulin.
- Students are not permitted to use, to be under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol or to use tobacco or vapes, while at the College, or wearing the College uniform or representing the College in any way. This includes images that are be posted on social media.
- The encouragement of other students to become in any way involved in the use, and/or supply of any of the above is not permitted.
- All students will receive age-appropriate health/drug education to support them to make informed choices, and to minimise the harm associated with drug, alcohol, vape and tobacco use.
- Referrals to counselling and support groups will be provided to students with drug, alcohol, vape or tobacco related problems.

The College acknowledges that sanctions often ignore the cause of drug, alcohol, vape or tobacco use. This Procedure recognises that sanctions alone are inadequate, unless supported by relevant education, counselling and reconciliation.

All breaches of the College regulations in relation to drugs and alcohol are considered serious and will be thoroughly investigated. Each incident will be considered on an individual basis and appropriate sanctions in accordance with this procedure and CEWA Directives will be applied at the discretion of the Principal.

PROCEDURES

Responding to Incidents of Drug, Alcohol, Vape or Tobacco Use

Student suspected of drug, alcohol, vape or tobacco use
Student wellbeing key priority
Student taken to College Student Reception
Dean of Students, Deputy Principals and Head of Year notified
Principal notified (decisions and action)
Police notified when students found in the possession of illegal substances

Where a student exhibits obvious signs of drug, alcohol, vape or tobacco use a staff member shall:

- Isolate the student from their peers in a calm and controlled manner (if possible).
- If this is not possible and an impaired student refuses to co-operate or becomes agitated, ensure that any other students within the immediate vicinity are removed from harm and attempt to calm the student until such time as other staff members are able to aid.
- Ask the student to accompany them to the College Student Reception.
- Notify the Dean of Students/Deputy Principals and Head of Year to inform them of the situation.

Once a student has been identified as misusing drugs, alcohol, vapes or tobacco, positive intervention will occur:

- In a situation where drug or alcohol is suspected, an assessment of the condition of the student should be made. If necessary, first aid will be administered.
- Dean of Students to notify the Deputy Principal and the Principal and a decision will be made regarding action to be taken.
- An assessment of the student's condition will be made and appropriate action based on the facts taken. This may include contacting the student's parents/guardians to inform them of the incident and requesting that they remove the student from the College grounds, and/or calling the police if the student is acting in an aggressive or threatening manner.
- It is the Principal's responsibility (often through the Deputy Principals) to notify the student's parents as soon as possible.
- Police will be notified when students are found in the possession of illegal substances.

INTERVENTION

The intervention procedure is designed to address incidents of drug, alcohol, vape or tobacco use in a manner that is in the best interest of all parties while conforming to legal requirements. Members of the College community are subject to the law and have the same responsibilities as all other citizens regarding the sale and possession of drugs, alcohol, vapes or tobacco.

Consequences may include exclusion, suspension, detention, parental notification, demotion from office or loss of privileges – ie, attendance at College functions/excursions. Exclusion of a student, although not considered the final solution, must be considered if the student poses a definite risk to himself/herself or any other member of the College community. In such cases this action will be taken after consultation with parents and in accordance with guidelines established by Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA).

The College may offer to assist in:

- Re-enrolment in another school.
- Recommending suitable counselling agencies for the student and his/her family.

Support (including education, counselling and reconciliation) will occur at all levels of response. All responses will include contact with parents by telephone and/or interview.

SMOKING (TOBACCO AND VAPES)

MCC is a smoke free school and smoking is not permitted on the College grounds by staff, visitors or students.

Student found smoking on College premises, while travelling to and/or from the College, at any time while wearing the College Uniform or at any College event.	- Referred to Head of Year and the Dean of Students/Deputy Principal
Consequence of first offence.	- Parents notified - External suspension - Conditional enrolment
Subsequent offences.	- Parent Interview - External Suspension - Counselling at out-of-school agency - Possible expulsion

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES (e-Cigarettes or vapes) and other personal vaporisers for delivery of nicotine/ other substances are not permitted. Consequences at the discretion of the Principal.

ALCOHOL

The consumption of alcohol by students is unlawful under the Liquor Licensing Act 1988.

Student use of alcohol at College or College related events or in College uniform is prohibited.

Student found in the possession or believed to be under the influence of alcohol on College premises, while travelling to and/or from the College, at any time while wearing the College Uniform or at any College event.	- Referred to Head of Year/Teacher-in-charge and the Dean of Students - Dean of Students will inform the Deputy Principal and Principal
Suspicion of the above but not confirmed.	- Parents called to collect student and assume responsibility for him/her - Investigation will take place
Concerns substantiated.	- Student's enrolment suspended - Student and parent/caregiver provided with opportunities to access counselling and advice - Interview with the Dean of Students/ Deputy Principal and the Principal

At the interview with the Dean of Students/Deputy Principal and the Principal, the incident, and the terms of the student's continued enrolment or their withdrawal or exclusion will be discussed. The Principal will exercise disciplinary discretion guided by concern for the well-being of the individual student together with concern for the welfare of the whole student body and responsibility to the wider College community.

ILLEGAL DRUGS AND ARTEFACTS

The possession, use and supply of illegal drugs is against the law. Student possession, use and supply of illegal drugs and artefacts at College or College related events or in College uniform is prohibited.

Student found to be in the possession or believed to be under the influence of illegal drugs or artefacts on College premises, while travelling to and/or from the College, at any time while wearing the College Uniform or at any College event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Referred to Head of Year/Teacher-in-charge and the Dean of Students - Dean of Students will inform the Deputy Principal and Principal - Thorough investigation will take place
Concerns substantiated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents called to collect student and assume responsibility for him/her - Student's enrolment suspended - Student and parents/caregiver provided with opportunities to access counselling and advice - Interview with the Dean of Students/ Deputy Principal and the Principal
Possession of illegal drugs including medication not prescribed for that student is against the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police to be notified

At the interview with the Dean of Students/Deputy Principal and the Principal, the incident and the terms of the student's continued enrolment at the College or their withdrawal or exclusion from it will be discussed. The Principal will exercise disciplinary discretion guided by concern for the well-being of the individual student together with concern for the welfare of the whole student body and responsibility to the wider College community.

It should be noted that being in the presence of drug, alcohol, vape, tobacco and e-cigarette use constitutes involvement in a prohibited activity and consequences will be given at the Principal's discretion.

Selling or "trafficking" in illegal drugs is considered a serious offence in Western Australia. Students found to be engaging in such an activity would generally be excluded from the College.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All staff are responsible to ensure that:

- They follow these guidelines when dealing with a student that they believe may be under the influence of illicit drugs, alcohol or smoked tobacco.
- All reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety and welfare of students from both known and reasonably foreseeable illicit drug related risks of harm and/or injury.
- The Principal, Deputy Principal and Dean of Students are informed if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student is involved in illicit drug related behaviour.
- Prescription drugs are not supplied or administered to students unless following the directions set out in the Medication Administration Procedure.
- Students are asked to display their possessions or contents of their bag or locker in the presence of two staff members, where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion that they have illicit drugs/alcohol or tobacco in their possession.

The College does not permit staff, students, parents or visitors, while on College premises or at College functions/events **where students are present to:**

- Consume and/or possess alcoholic beverages. However, social functions involving responsible alcohol use by adults may proceed at the discretion of the Principal.
- Deliberately inhale solvents.
- Possess or use prohibited drugs (Misuse of Drugs Act, 1981).
- Be under the influence of any of the above.
- Smoke tobacco products or use of tobacco inhalers.
- Possess drug-related equipment such as syringes (except for lawful medical use), bongos, pipes, etc. (Misuse of Drugs Act, 1981).
- Possess legal drugs in amounts which exceed prescribed or required dosages.
- Supply or sell any of the above substances or drug-related equipment.

Please Note:

- Drugs for medicinal purposes are to be used in accordance with CEWA guidelines. Students may only carry sufficient personal medication for one school day. Parents or guardians are responsible for providing, in writing, details of medication and its appropriate use.
- On College premises or at College events includes any time students travel to / from the College, any time the student is wearing the College uniform, and at any College retreat, camp, excursion or tour or social ie, Y12 Ball.
- The College reserves the right to breathalyse students for any events or organised functions such as a social, College Ball, Year 11 Dinner Dance etc.
- Staff, parents and visitors involved in College activities are to adhere to the above conditions whenever acting in a supervisory role, as per CEWA guidelines. It should be noted that being in the presence of drug, alcohol, tobacco and e-cigarette use constitutes involvement in a prohibited activity.

IMPLEMENTATION

This Procedure is implemented through a combination of:

- Staff training.
- Student education via ongoing age-appropriate drug education programs integrated into classroom learning and presenters who are invited to speak to the students at different stages.