



Alcohol, Tobacco and Illicit Drugs Policy

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ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND ILLICIT DRUGS POLICY

Context

This policy aims to promote the development of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to live a healthy and fulfilling life. It is framed within the context of the promotion of positive values that underpin education at The Lakes College.

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

Aims of Drug Education Programme

The Lakes College seeks to establish a safe environment in which students and the wider College community are well informed about contemporary drug issues. The College endeavours to:-

- Provide students with relevant and accurate information about drugs.
- Help students to understand that most people their age and most adults in the population choose not to use drugs or to use them in a way that will cause them harm.
- Develop student resilience in addition to personal, social and cognitive skills.
- Enhance student capacity to deal with drug related issues in a variety of contexts through a focus on the following:
 - a) Assessing possible risks and harms in situations involving drug use.
 - b) Generating strategies to prevent or deal with potential harm related to situations where drugs are used.
 - c) Problem solving and generating options.
 - d) Communicating drug related decisions and concerns.
 - e) Help-seeking in situations involving substance abuse.
- To involve students in a variety of roles that empower them in educating themselves, their peers, their family and the broader community about dangers associated with engaging in the unsanctioned use of drugs.

Procedures

Incident Management

When

- at the College,
- in College uniform,
- representing the College,
- or on any occasion when the staff of the College have responsibility for an individual student or group of students,
- when the student's actions bring the College into disrepute.

The Lakes College does not allow students to:

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

The Lakes College prohibits:

- the possession, sale, supply, exchange or negotiation in relation to any of the above.
- in the case of illicit drugs the College has a non-negotiable **zero tolerance** policy. **Students utilising, possessing or engaged in distributing such drugs can expect to forfeit their right to be members of The Lakes College community.**

If a breach of these expectations is suspected, some or all of the following actions may 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 including interviews with students concerned **prior to parental involvement**;
- parental contact and follow-up as soon as practicable;
- possible contact with police where appropriate;
- supervision of isolated student during investigation;

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 College. This contract may require attendance of counselling and/or treatment programmes.
- Detention.
- Suspension.
- Termination of enrolment.
- Police action.

Minimising Illicit Drug Use

In order to minimise illicit drug use, the College will:

- Advertise widely that illicit drug use, possession and supply in the College is unacceptable and, when detected, will result in serious consequences, including police and parental involvement.
- Reinforce the unacceptability of illicit drugs by consistently carrying through on stated actions.
- Identify consequences and apply them consistently and fairly to users and suppliers.
- Establish an environment in which all College community members have enough care and concern for each other that they will confidentially pass on information about people using, carrying and/or selling drugs.
- Use police cautioning processes where possible.
- Implement education programs which reinforce consequences of having illicit drugs at the College.
- Ensure that detection and deterrent processes are maintained and sustained.

- Inform the whole community about the processes, possible consequences and potential outcomes of being found with drugs at the College.
- Review and evaluate strategies and procedures regularly and revise them as required.

Policy Release Details

Date of Policy: April 2012
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Approved by

The Lakes College Board
Chairman.....
Date

Review Date

Biannually or as required.