

1. Rationale

Drug use by students is an issue that confronts the majority of schools in some way at some stage. The College Drug Policy has its origins in the 'dignity of the human person', which is based on the following beliefs:

- *All persons have an innate dignity as each person is made in God's 'image and likeness'. (Gen 1:26)*
- *Living a moral life witnesses to this dignity. (CCC 1706)*
- *Human life is sacred.*
- *Life and physical health are precious gifts given to us by God. (CCC 2258)*
- *Each person is responsible for care of self, others and the common good. (CCC2288)*
- *Each person is required to grow in virtue and avoid sin.*
- *If they sin, they are to ask for God's mercy. (CCC2258)*

References: Gen - The Book of Genesis CCC - Catechism of the Catholic Church

The spiritual, moral, emotional and physical wellbeing of Mazenod College students and their families is of the highest priority. In considering its response to drug use, the College will be mindful of individual circumstances. The Principal has the right to exercise discretion in the application of the sanctions contained within this policy.

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

The intervention procedure is designed to address incidents of drug 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.

Consequences can include exclusion, suspension, detention, parental notification, and demotion from office or loss of privileges – i.e., attendance at College functions / excursions. Exclusion of a student 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 CEWA.

The College may offer to assist in:

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

Once a College community member has been identified as misusing drugs, positive intervention will occur. In a situation where drug use is suspected, an assessment of the condition of the student should be made. If necessary, first aid will be administered.

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.

2. Definitions

A drug is defined as any substance, with the exception of 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, cannabis, amphetamines, prescribed legal drugs.

While not classified as drugs, solvents such as glue and petrol sniffing are included in the policy.

3. Code of Conduct

The College does not permit staff, students, parents or visitors, while on College premises or at College functions 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.
- Possess drug-related equipment such as syringes (except for lawful medical use), bongs, 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:

- a) Drugs for medicinal purposes are to be used in accordance with Catholic Education Office 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.
- b) On College premises or at College functions includes any time students travel to and/or from the College, any time the student is wearing the College uniform, attending organised functions such as a social, College ball, sporting events etc., and at any College retreat, camp, excursion or tour. Staff, parents and visitors involved in College activities are to adhere to the above conditions whenever acting in a supervisory role, as per the CEWA guidelines. It should be noted that being in the presence of drug use constitutes involvement in a prohibited activity.

4. Smoking (possession, supply or use of tobacco products)

First offence:	Three days suspension with an Anti-Smoking Education package provided. Compulsory interview with parents and students with Deputy Principal before returning.
Second offence:	Suspension for five school days. Compulsory interview with parents and student with Deputy Principal and Head of Year. Exclusion from social outings and at the Principal's discretion, exclusion from other co-curricular activities for one semester.
Third offence:	Parents may be asked by the Principal to withdraw their child from the College as part of the exclusion process.

5. Alcohol (possession, supply or being under the influence of alcohol)

First offence:	Parents will be immediately contacted to collect the student. Compulsory interview – parents, student with Deputy Principal and Head of Year. Five days suspension with an Alcohol Education package provided. Exclusion from social outings and at the Principal's discretion, exclusion from other co-curricular activities for one semester.
Second offence:	Parents may be asked by the Principal to withdraw their child from the College as part of the exclusion process.

6. Solvents

When solvent abuse is identified, the item will be confiscated.

Parents and the student will be required to discuss the situation with Deputy Principal and Head of Year.

A period of suspension shall be imposed and parents may be asked to withdraw the student from the College.

Where deemed necessary, arrangements will be made for the student to participate in an appropriate Drug Education Program.

7. Drugs (possession or use of illicit drugs)

- First offence: Police involvement.
Compulsory interview with parents and students with Principal and Deputy Principal.
Participation in a compulsory Drug Education Program.
Suspension for a minimum of five school days. Parents may be asked to withdraw the student from the College at the Principal's discretion.
- Second offence: Police involvement.
Parents will be asked to withdraw their child from the College as part of the exclusion process.

8. Drugs (possession or use of illicit drugs)

- First offence: Police involvement.
Parents will be asked to withdraw their child from the College as part of the exclusion process.

9. Drug related implements (possession, use or supply)

- First offence: Three days suspension.
Compulsory interview with parents and students with Deputy Principal before returning.
- Second offence: Police involvement.
Compulsory interview with parents and students with Deputy Principal and Head of Year.
Participation in a compulsory Drug Education Program.
Suspension for a minimum of five school days. Parents may be asked to withdraw the student from the College at the Principal's discretion.
- Third offence Police involvement.
Parents will be asked to withdraw their child from the College as part of the exclusion process.

10.Publicity

Where drugs are involved, the ramifications for the individual student and his/her family can be quite serious. The privacy and dignity of the individual student and family will be respected.

11.Review History

Year	Reviewed by:	Amendments / Review
2018	CLT	Reformatting