



FAITHFULNESS IN SERVICE

**BISHOP DRUITT COLLEGE**

COFFS HARBOUR

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## ILLICIT AND UNSANCTIONED SUBSTANCE (DRUG) POLICY

### Aim of the Policy

The aim of this policy is to:

- Provide clarity in relation to the College's position on drugs
- Outline the College's aims in relation to drug education
- Explain how the College may intervene and what action the College may take in the case of student breaches of this policy
- Be consistent with state and federal laws
- Reflect the National School Drug Education Strategy and National Framework for Protocols for Managing Illicit and Other Unsanctioned Drugs in Schools (DEST, June 2000)

### Definitions

For the purpose of this document, a **drug** is a substance which produces a psychoactive effect (alters mental processes including mood, cognition, thinking or behaviour). The term drug is used generically to include, but is not limited to: tobacco and herbal cigarettes, alcohol, pharmaceutical drugs, illicit drugs, image and performance enhancing drugs, inhalants and plants that induce psychoactive effects.

An **illicit drug** is a drug for which the production, sale, possession or use is prohibited. An alternative term is 'illegal drug'.

An **unsanctioned drug** is a drug whose use is restricted by law, school authorities and/or school policies/guidelines. It includes illicit, social and prescription drugs, but it is not necessarily illegal. For example, alcohol is an unsanctioned drug.

**Inhalants** are substances which are inhaled for their psychoactive effects, including many domestic and commercial products such as glue, aerosol sprays, paints, industrial solvents, thinners, petrol and cleaning fluid.

**Drug paraphernalia** includes hypodermic needles, balloons, aluminium foil wrappers, mirrors or flat metal, short straws, glass pipes, bongs, smoking pipes, capsules, vials, folded paper envelopes, a cigarette lighter etc.



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The school's policy is predicated by two themes – prevention and intervention:

## Prevention

NSDES Principle	Key Elements	Components
3	Safe and supportive school environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive human relationships underpin a student's education at the College.</li> <li>The enrolment contract, school diary and our Vision and Values document, outline our expectations of behaviour. Student behaviour is closely monitored by the College's pastoral care system.</li> <li>The College's aim is to be proactive in the formation of student resilience and the management of their welfare.</li> </ul>
1, 2, 3, 7	Policies and procedures that are relevant and up to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bishop Drutt Drug Policy is integrated with existing behaviour management policies; student welfare policies and the Critical Incident Policy.</li> <li>The policy has been developed collaboratively with staff, students, parents, health/youth workers and the police.</li> <li>It has been clearly communicated and broadly disseminated to the entire school community in an unambiguous and inclusive way.</li> <li>The policy will be reviewed periodically.</li> </ul>
3	Drug education program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The policy is based on the accepted principles for drug education which are documented in the National School Drug Education Strategy.</li> <li>It reinforces public health and safety messages provided through alcohol/road safety, tobacco and illicit drug information campaigns.</li> <li>Is embedded in the College's compulsory Personal Development, Health and Physical Education curriculum.</li> </ul>
5, 6	Skilled and informed staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaching and non teaching staff are provided with regular professional development on drug issues to make them aware of constructive measures to take and the legal and regulatory frameworks in which they must work.</li> </ul>
2, 3, 5	Information and support for parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information regarding our drug policy and drug education is provided by take-home means such as newsletters, special purpose leaflets and is available on our website.</li> <li>Drug education courses or information sessions are offered for parents periodically.</li> </ul>



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### Intervention

NSDES Principle	Key Elements	Components
2, 3, 4, 5	School policy and procedures for drug related issues and incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses consider the nature of the incident, the student's school and family history, cultural background, mental health, intellectual development and any other relevant information.</li> <li>Aims to protect the health and safety of the student(s) involved, other students, school staff and the wider community.</li> <li>Considers the role of parents and their right to be involved in discussions and plans for follow up action.</li> <li>Considers the need for counselling, support and/or referral to other agencies.</li> </ul>
2, 3, 5	Action plan for early intervention for students at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our pastoral care system, including our counsellors, have procedures in place for identifying and supporting students who are at risk of using drugs.</li> </ul>
2, 3, 4, 5	Action plan for managing a drug related incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarifies roles and steps to be taken in terms of student management; securing drugs and related paraphernalia; informing school administration, parents and police; liaising with other professionals and agencies and responding to the media.</li> <li>Offers a number of levels of responses to match the circumstances of the incident.</li> <li>Aims to fulfil legal and College Council requirements for disciplinary responses and referrals to the police.</li> <li>Aims to provide for procedural fairness and the need to demonstrate how this was achieved.</li> </ul>
1, 2, 5	A communication strategy for drug related incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies when it is appropriate to provide some advice about the incident and the response to staff, students and parents who were not directly involved in the incident.</li> <li>Ensures that all staff are aware of school and/or system wide procedures for responding to the media.</li> </ul>
2, 3	Formalised cooperative liaison and referral with other agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protocols for liaison and referral are established with relevant professionals and agencies to provide: professional development for school staff; advice and resources for school staff, parents and students; medical assessment; and, particularly, counseling and rehabilitation services for students involved with illicit and other unsanctioned drugs.</li> <li>School staff can readily access information on relevant professionals and agencies for liaison and referral (eg. through a directory).</li> </ul>
3	Support for students involved in drug related incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes students who have been suspended, expelled or excluded.</li> <li>Progress is monitored through liaison with the student, their family and the professionals or agencies they have been referred to.</li> <li>Maintains their engagement in education, including facilitating reintegration into the school or integration into a new school or training program.</li> </ul>



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### POLICY

#### Prevention

For the majority, education prevents substance abuse. Through the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education curriculum; the Religion Education curriculum and the Pastoral Care structures and programs that also involve the Outdoor Education and co-curricular programs, Bishop DrUITT College aims to ensure that students develop resilience, hold functional values and can make wise choices regarding substance abuse.

We view drug education as a process that must involve parents, so we regularly update parents about drug related issues via the newsletter, the College website and invitations to attend drug information evenings at the College.

Regular professional development about drug issues is provided for our teaching staff, particularly those in the PDHPE faculty.

#### Intervention

It is College policy that while on the school campus or engaged in any school-related activity, students (regardless of being of legal age) are not permitted to:

- Possess drug-related paraphernalia
- Possess, supply, use or be under the influence of illicit drugs
- Possess, supply, use or be under the influence of unsanctioned drugs

The law regarding the possession and supply of illicit drugs is clear. The community at large expects that a school will convey through its actions and teachings that it does not in any way encourage or condone any form of drug use that is prohibited by this policy.

In the event of a student being suspected of breaching the policy, the College may conduct an investigation which will involve contacting parents and implementing intervention strategies.

***Any student who is found to have been involved in the procurement or distribution of illicit or unsanctioned substances for another student at any school related activity whether in the school grounds or outside, will have his/her enrolment withdrawn. The College will notify the NSW Police. The Principal has absolute discretion in these matters and will refer to a student's prior disciplinary record at the College when making such determinations.***

Where an intervention is put in place (following a student's involvement that does not result in expulsion), the prime objective in all cases is the cessation of the drug use. Because the safety and welfare of each student is paramount, the School will endeavour to meet its objectives for individual students in ways that are tailored to the individual's circumstances.



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Interventions will generally involve staff within the School, such as the student's year coordinator, head of house, tutor, counsellors and the Director of Pastoral Care. Outside agencies (such as Headspace) may also be involved where appropriate.

***There is a mandatory mutual obligation on the part of any student who is the subject of remedial intervention by the School: he or she will cooperatively engage in the remedies prescribed by the School. The remedies will involve a substantial commitment on the part of the student and will be linked to the potential harm of the usage.***

Students undertaking an intervention plan and their parents will be required to commit to the plan in writing. As in all matters, the College looks for growth in students and seeks evidence of lessons being learned from students' mistakes. Because of this, repeat offences by an individual will be viewed very seriously indeed and may result in the withdrawal of the enrolment.

Consequences for involvement with illicit or unsanctioned substances (depending on the scope of a student's involvement) might include one or more of the following:

- Expulsion
- Suspension
- Withdrawal
- Detention
- Referral to an outside agency
- Regular counselling
- Student contract
- Referral to the NSW Police
- Other actions deemed appropriate by the Principal

These various interventions will be supported by an action plan that involves specific, relevant staff at the College and which outlines those measures that must be followed by a student.

### Review and Evaluation

Policy and procedures for managing drug related incidents will be reviewed periodically.

Alan Ball  
**Principal**  
January, 2013