

Living Waters Lutheran College

DRUG POLICY



“At Living Waters Lutheran College we share the love of Jesus as we educate those in our care, enabling them to realise their God-given potential for a life of service.”

This policy is based on two main principles, the first being opposition to drug abuse, and second, abstinence from illegal drug use.

Rationale

Living Waters Lutheran College acknowledges that drug use is a serious and complex issue with many contributing factors that affect everyone, and is of particular concern during the transitional period of adolescence to adulthood. Living Waters Lutheran College aims to promote a positive, healthy and caring school environment embracing family, spiritual and community values within our community. We provide support for our students and their families so the students can develop, enabling each to achieve their full potential by making healthy choices in their lives.

Aims

- To maintain a health promoting school environment in which the welfare of all school members is paramount.
- To document the Living Waters Lutheran College agreed position on, and accepted procedures for dealing with drug related incidents and problems associated with drug abuse.
- To ensure consistency with state and federal laws.
- This policy will apply to all College activities including social events, camps, excursions and sporting events in which the College may participate.

Strategies

- Provide professional development for staff about youth drug use issues, drug classification and the recognition of individuals under the influence of drugs.
- Provide parents/guardians with the opportunity to participate in drug education programs, enabling them to understand and discuss drug use with their sons and daughters.
- Promote a practice of pastoral care within the school that allows each student to feel valued and develop a sense of self-worth.
- Provide access for students, parents/guardians and staff to the student and family counsellor or the College Chaplain for areas of communication and counselling.
- Regularly review this policy.
- Ensure that health and drug education teaching and learning programmes are allocated curriculum time and taught within a sequential K-10 program. Other strategies for drug education need to be adopted for Years 11 and 12 students.
- Ensure that health and drug education teaching and learning programmes are adequately resourced, including the provision of regular professional development for teachers of health and drug education.
- Linking of studies in health and drug education across all curriculum areas in K-10 on a yearly basis.
- Ensure parents/guardians are responsible for notification in writing of any drugs needed for medicinal purposes detailing when medication is needed, to the College nurse. All medication must be located, issued and dispensed from the College office in the presence of the College nurse or designated assistant.

Intervention

These intervention procedures conform to legal requirements and are designed to address alcohol, tobacco and other drug related problems to ensure the health and wellbeing of all parties concerned are represented. Living

Our policy promotes zero tolerance and is binding to all members and visitors to the school community.

Definition

“Any substance, with the exception of food and water, which when taken into the body, alters its function physically and psychologically, including all legal and illegal psychoactive drugs which principally alter mood, perception and consciousness.”

The College’s drug policy provides a framework to address tobacco, alcohol, medicinal and illicit drug related problems in a caring and consistent manner within the Living Waters community.

From the College Diary

Waters Lutheran College does not permit students while on College premises, travelling to and from the College or at any College function, excursion or camp to:

- Smoke and/or possess tobacco products.
- Consume and/or possess alcohol or be under the influence of alcohol.
- Inhale solvents/volatile substances.
- Possess and/or use drugs for non-medicinal purposes.
- Possess and/or use illegal drugs or drug related equipment.
- Distribute any illegal substance.

Consequences

Consequences can include expulsion, suspension, detention, parental notification, demotion from office or loss of privileges i.e. attendance at school functions, excursions, camps. Each instance will be considered individually and independently according to the given set of circumstances. Cases of drug use/supply/possession are serious offences and as such the College Principal/parents/guardians and key agencies work closely to find the best solution for all concerned.

The College Principal or his/her delegate reserves the right to conduct an official bag and or locker search where there is sufficient suspicion that a student is in possession of an illegal substance. This will be in the presence of the student and another adult. Should the Principal deem that a student might be in possession of drugs on their

person, the student will be asked to empty his/her pockets. Offending students will be offered counselling and will face disciplinary actions. All contact with outside agencies including the media and the police, in relation to any drug matter will be made only by the Principal or his/her delegate.

Communication and Promotion

Students will be made aware of the Policy through their Pastoral Care class. Parents will be asked to read and sign the policy which will be printed in the College diary on a yearly basis. It will be included in information to prospective parents. Staff will learn about the Policy through professional development sessions during staff meetings. A copy will also be included in the staff information hand book.

How Can You Tell if Your Child is Using Drugs?

The effects of a drug vary from one person to another. Changes in a student’s behaviour could indicate an issue in a young person’s life that may not be drug related. However, it may indicate drug use. Signs that appear uncharacteristic of your child and require your attention, regardless of whether drugs are involved include:

- Mood swings
- Lethargy
- Explosive outbursts
- Minimal interaction with the family
- Trouble with the police
- Changes in eating habits
- Frequent absences from school
- Sudden changes of friends
- Unexplained need for money
- Declining school performance
- Disappearing money and/or valuables
- Impaired memory
- Loss of interest in usual activities
- Poor concentration
- Reddened eyes

Concerned About Your Child’s Drug Use?

- Don’t panic
- Get the facts
- Communicate – listen and be honest about your concerns
- Seek support early

Acknowledgement	
This policy has been read by:	-----
Parent name	Student name
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Parent signature	Student signature

Further Contacts

<i>Living Waters Lutheran College Health Education Teachers or Counsellor</i>	08 9593 1211
<i>Community Drug Service Team (Rockingham)</i>	08 9529 2500
<i>Alcohol and Drug Information Service</i>	08 9442 5000
<i>Parent Drug Information Service</i>	08 9442 5050