



LOYOLA COLLEGE

DRUG POLICY

Intended audience	Loyola College Community
Author	DOWAL ~ Development of Wellbeing at Loyola
Ratifying Body	College Board
Ratified	Semester 1 2012
Review date	Semester 1 2015

PREAMBLE

Loyola College, as a Catholic co-educational College in the Ignatian tradition, seeks the education of the whole person and strives to ensure that each student achieves his or her unique potential. This focus incorporates an emphasis on the development of strong critical thinking and effective communication skills in every individual.

Drug use and drug-related issues confront most communities at some time in varied ways. People in today's society use drugs for both medical and recreational purposes. The Loyola College Community is well aware of the impact of harmful drugs on young people and their families and accepts that in conjunction with parents, governments and the wider community, has a role to play in reducing the harm that can arise from drug use. Consequently Loyola College is committed to provide the students in its care with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions about drug use and non-use. In accordance with Catholic Education Office Melbourne (CEOM) policy, Loyola College aims to address the drug education needs of its student body through a harm minimisation approach to curriculum and student wellbeing. The approach will be multidimensional providing strategies for prevention, early intervention and specialist support for those with drug-related problems.

DEFINITIONS

Drug: Defined as any substance, with the exception of food and water, which when taken into the body, alters its function physically and psychologically. This includes all legal and illegal substances.

Illicit drug: A drug of which the production, sale, possession or use is prohibited. An alternative term is 'illegal drug'.

Sanctioned drug: Defined as a drug prescribed for medicinal purposes by the treating doctor who has specified dosage and directions for administering, and with written permission from the parent or guardian for use within the school jurisdiction.

Unsanctioned drug: A drug for which use is restricted by law, school authorities and/or school policies/guidelines. The term includes illicit, social and prescription drugs.

Harm minimisation: Refers to policies and programs aimed at reducing drug-related harm which includes the promotion of abstinence, prevention of anticipated harm, and reduction of actual harm.

Drug Education: A term to encompass all policies, practices, programs and initiatives/events in schools connected with the prevention and reduction of drug-related harm. The focus of drug education at Loyola College is on increasing student understanding and knowledge on drugs and their effects, and the risks associated with drug use. It also involves developing social, critical thinking and problem solving skills so to equip students with skills to deal with drug related issues in a variety of contexts.

It is acknowledged at Loyola College that drug education is best achieved within an environment that is safe, supportive and inclusive.

The planning and implementation of drug education at Loyola College should involve collaborative relationships between students, staff members, families and the broader community.

College activities: Defined as when students are travelling to and from the College, at any school camp, excursion, interstate or overseas study tours, or other curricular or co-curricular school-organised function.

Drug-related incident: An occasion involving alcohol, tobacco and/or other illicit or unsanctioned drug use and/or the possession of a drug or drug-related equipment (except for legal medical use).

Drug-related issues: All issues associated with drugs, including those that arise from personal use and use by another person or persons.

Possession: Occupying or holding a substance either with or without rights of ownership.

Intervention: The strategies implemented when responding to drug related issues.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Loyola College is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment to prevent or reduce drug related harm. Consequently:

- Every student has the right to feel safe in the College environment.
- Standards and expectations for student behaviour are clearly articulated.
- The College environment is inclusive of all students.
- A whole-school approach to promote a systematic and practical framework to address drug related issues is used.
- A range of processes and strategies are employed.
- The support of parents & guardians is paramount.

RELATED POLICIES

Policy 2.13 ~ Drug Issues in Catholic Schools (CEOM)
Loyola College Restorative Practices Policy