



Prohibited Substances Policy

College Mission

Cabra Dominican College is a Catholic School in the Dominican tradition. It strives to provide an environment that nurtures and develops young people's unique gifts: liberating them in the search for truth and empowering them to create a better world.

Context

In realising our mission and vision and recognising our moral and legal obligations, Cabra Dominican College aims to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for all of its students. Moreover, the use, possession or supply of any illicit or prohibited substances is not acceptable and against the law. This policy is embedded within a whole school strategy aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle and wise decision making.

Policy Statement

This policy applies to student attendance on and travel to; College premises; at College functions; excursions; and camps; and when students are representing the College or wearing the College uniform. Cabra Dominican College does not allow students while within the school zone, at school functions, travelling to and from the College to:

- smoke tobacco;
- consume or possess alcohol;
- possess, use or supply prohibited substances or drugs;
- misuse prescribed or over-the-counter medicines, drinks and good substances;
- misuse solvents and other chemical agents;
- be under the influence of any of the above;
- sell, supply, exchange or negotiate in relation to any of the above;
- possess drug related equipment.

Complicit with the legal age of consumption, the Principal can sanction the use of legal substances (e.g. alcohol) for special occasions such as the Year 12 Presentation Dinner.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, parents/caregivers and is supported by staff working within or for Cabra Dominican College.

Principles

1. The principle of harm minimisation involves a range of strategies and approaches that contribute to the prevention and reduction of the harmful consequences of drug use for the individual and society.
2. A drug and alcohol education/awareness program will be part of the school curriculum.
3. The range of responses to drug/substance/alcohol-related incidents will take into account the nature and seriousness of the incident, the circumstances of the student(s) involved, including age and developmental considerations, and the needs and safety of others in the College.
4. Where there is a reasonable suspicion that a student has an illegal/unsanctioned substance in their possession, the Principal or appointed nominee, accompanied by another adult, may request to search that student's person, possessions, locker and bag, in accordance with procedural guidelines set by the Catholic Education Office.
5. The possession or selling of prohibited substances will invoke serious penalties, including dismissal or expulsion.

Response/Consequences

The range of responses to drug/substance/alcohol-related incidents will take into account the nature and seriousness of the incident, the circumstances of the student(s) involved, including age and developmental considerations, and the needs and safety of others in the College.

After the investigation of a 'prohibited substance' related incident involving all the relevant parties, follow-up action as deemed appropriate by the Principal, will be carried out, while taking into account the chronological age and developmental stage of the student.

When determining follow-up action, the Principal and/or Deputy Principal will consider:

- the nature of the 'prohibited substance' related incident and its breach of College policy and law;
- the circumstances of the incident and the student(s) involved;
- the welfare of the student and the family, while keeping in mind the welfare and expectations of the general College community.

A breach of the College's expectations will incur some or all of the following consequences:

- police involvement;
- suspension (internal or external);
- placement upon a negotiated contract between student, parent/caregivers and the College (this contract may require attendance at counselling or treatment programs);
- expulsion or negotiated transfer of the student.

Responsibilities

Students will:

- uphold this policy;
- not be in possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco or similar substances whilst on school premises, or at any school activity regardless of location.

Parents/caregivers will:

- support this policy;
- maintain open and supportive levels of communications with staff when addressing issues.

Staff will:

- ensure that they are familiar and support this policy;
- ensure that they attend and participate in any relevant professional development or training in drug/alcohol education;
- be aware that the attitudes and behaviour of students in relation to drugs and alcohol is strongly influenced by the role modelling of school personnel;
- take positive and appropriate action to prevent the use of prohibited substances on school premises and at authorised school activities and camps;
- report any instances of possession, sale, supply, purchase, use or administration of a prohibited substance or any equipment associated with them, to the Executive Leadership;
- report any strong suspicion of; witness; come across suspicious/illegal material that suggests; have a student disclose that; a student(s) have engaged in drug use and/or other dangerous behaviour;
- respect the dignity of the student and their right to privacy. Information should only be provided on a need to know basis.

Executive Leadership will:

- ensure that all staff are aware of the Prohibited Substances Policy;
- ensure that the school curriculum incorporates a drug/alcohol education program;
- ensure that all staff receive timely and appropriate training in drug awareness and intervention;
- be responsible for the management of any suspected prohibited substance incidents;
- maintain accurate records as necessary.

Related Documents and References

- Personal Responsibility Policy
- Cabra's Restorative Approach Procedure
- Cabra Dominican College Student Handbook
- Cabra Dominican College Staff Handbook
- Cabra Principles for Working Together
- SACCS Development of Personal Responsibility Policy
- Alcohol and Drug Information Service: 1300 13 1340 www.sahealth.sa.gov.au
(24hour confidential telephone counselling and information)

Policy Title: Prohibited Substances Policy
Ratified by Executive Leadership Team: 2018
Policy due for review: 2021