



St Joseph's School
Port Lincoln

In all things love

Prohibited Substances Policy

Policy Statement

At St Joseph's School, we recognise our moral and legal obligations as part of our partnerships as school and educators with students, parents/caregivers and government, and aim to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for all.

The use, possession, or supply of illicit or prohibited substances by or to SJS students is:

- (a) against the law;
- (b) has the potential to seriously harm students; and
- (c) threatens the safety of the community.

This policy applies to all students of SJS whilst in attendance at and travelling to:

- (a) School premises;
- (b) School functions; and
- (c) excursions and camps.

This policy applies any time that students are representing SJS which includes:

- (a) when students are wearing their uniform; or
- (b) when students are identifying themselves as being SJS students, such as on social media.

Rationale

This policy honours our commitment to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for all. It aims to be fair and equitable to all students; and is embedded in our pastoral care of individual students, which aims to promote a healthy lifestyle and wise decision making.

Definitions

Prohibited Substance means:

- (a) any substance declared illegal under South Australian law;
- (b) a substance which is unlawful for a person under the age of 18 years to possess or consume, such as alcohol or tobacco;
- (c) a substance which is not declared illegal but which a student possesses with the intention of misusing such as solvents, other chemical agents or nitrous oxide;
- (d) 'vapes' or electronic cigarettes; or
- (e) drug-related equipment, such as that which is used to consume drugs.

Responsibilities

For the Prohibited Substances Policy to be equitable for all students, it is important that responsibility is shared by all:

St Joseph's Leadership:

- Make the policy and procedures accessible to all.
- Ensure that teachers are supported in implementing the school's policy effectively.
- Ensure that teachers are supported in reporting appropriately (eg. CARL notification).
- Ensure that harm minimisation informs this policy and strategies are in place for the prevention and reduction of the harmful consequences of Prohibited Substance use for the individual, society and the School.
- Continue to work with staff to develop best practice in management of, and support strategies for matters relating to substance abuse.

St Joseph's Teachers:

- Ensure the welfare of a student in possession of, or affected by, Prohibited Substances is paramount in the first instance. (This clause does not, however, affect the operation of potential consequences for a breach of this Policy.)
- Develop and maintain a safe living and learning environment for all members of the School community.
- Where applicable, work with colleagues to contribute to a coordinated approach to drug and alcohol prevention programs as part of the School curriculum.
- Inform parents in a timely manner of any concerns.

St Joseph's Students:

- Respect themselves and others
- Employ effective self-management with regard to knowledge, or use, of substances at School.

St Joseph's Parents:

- Ensure they are fully informed of the School's Prohibited Substances Policy.
- Support the School to protect the safety of all.
- Monitor their child's use of substances.

Procedure

Where there is a reasonable suspicion that a student has a Prohibited Substance in their possession, the Principal or appointed nominee, accompanied by another adult, may request to search that student's person, possessions, locker, or bag.

Where a student refuses to comply with a request, the Principal or appointed nominee may:

- (a) contact the student's parents/caregiver to request for them to attend the School immediately;
- (b) contact Catholic Education SA

(c) contact SAPOL to attend the School to complete the search.

In determining a response to a breach of this Policy, the Principal or nominee will consider the:

(a) nature and seriousness of the incident;

(b) circumstances of the student or students involved, including age and developmental considerations;

(c) welfare of the student and the family;

(d) the welfare and expectations of the general School community; and

(e) the needs and safety of others in the School.

A breach of this Policy will invoke serious penalties, including:

(a) suspension;

(b) placement upon a negotiated contract between student, parent/caregiver and the School; or

(c) expulsion, withdrawal of enrolment, or negotiated transfer of the student.

The Principal may also refer a breach of this Policy to SAPOL, for appropriate intervention.

Related Documents

SJS Development of Personal Responsibility and Behaviour Management Policy

CESA Building Respectful Relationships: Behaviour Education and Student Behaviour Support – Policy and Procedure

CESA Building Respectful Relationships: Student Suspension and Cancelling Enrolment Procedure

CESA Procedures for Dealing with Suspension and Expulsion