



Policy

The position taken by Hope Christian College from a Biblical Christian perspective is that God has created us for wholeness, righteousness and a life of dependence on Himself. Anything which intervenes in, interrupts, replaces or prevents this is to be shunned and avoided.

Hope Christian College has a policy of **ZERO TOLERANCE** regarding illegal substance use, possession or trade, and the abuse of prescription drugs.

Students who involve themselves in such activities and associations both in and outside College hours, face expulsion from Hope Christian College and referral of the matter to the Police.

God's Word the Bible counsels us to,

"deny ungodliness and worldly lusts....and live soberly, righteous and godly in the present age (Titus 2:12) and further, to "cleanse (ourselves)...(to) be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work 2 Timothy 2:21)

Illegal substance abuse, legal substance abuse, and unprofitable or unacceptable substance use are therefore to be rejected and avoided from the Christian standpoint, in order to pursue the high ideals of the Christian Faith.

Procedure and Application

Illegal Substance Use, Possession or Trade

Students of Hope Christian College are expected to have no dealings, involvement or association with illegal drug use, including the use of volatile substances. Such use is contrary to the Christian ethos of the College and will discredit or compromise the testimony of the College, causing others to be influenced or affected contrary to College expectations, bringing discredit or detriment upon themselves.

The possession of such drugs, or the paraphernalia associated with illegal (non-prescribed) drug use will be deemed a breach of this policy. In the case of possession of illegal drugs or items associated with illegal drug use on any part of the College campus, the student will be removed from the College campus and suspended immediately, pending expulsion. The matter referred to the Police and the student will be expelled.

In the case where the College is sufficiently satisfied of a student's involvement in the use of illegal drugs outside of the College, the student will be immediately suspended and the matter of their expulsion considered by the Principal.

The Abuse of Prescription Drugs

Students at Hope Christian College found to be using prescription or legal drugs for other than a diagnosed medical condition, will be deemed by the terms of this policy to be abusing such substances, and will be suspended. The Principal will consider the matter of expulsion and act as appropriate.

In the case of students seeking to sell or traffic in prescription or legal drugs for illegal or unintended use, such students will be expelled and the police informed.

In the case of students seeking to gain possession of prescription drugs for other students, or for personal or other use, such students will be expelled and the police informed.



Alcohol or Cigarettes

In the case of alcohol or cigarettes, any student found to be in possession of such items on any part of the College campus or at a College activity, will be suspended and their enrolment reviewed by the Principal. The supply of alcohol to other students at on any part of the College campus or at a College function will result in expulsion. Under-age drinking of any alcoholic beverage or the use of cigarettes outside of College operating hours will also result in the Principal's review of the student's enrolment.

The Scope of the Policy

This policy covers all students' enrolled at the College (full time or part time) while they are:

- On College premises.
- At College related activities.
- Traveling to or from the College.
- At any social or private activity in the wider community.

The College's Commitment

The College is committed to helping students to develop positive attitudes and behaviour regarding drugs. This will be done via:

- Appropriate Health and Social Education Programs as embedded within the curriculum.
- An environment where drug use and abuse can be discussed with appropriate positive alternatives presented.
- An educational ethos which promotes a sense of the high personal worth of each person as an image bearer of God, to enable and encourage students to counter destructive and contrary pressures in the wider community.
- An environment that promotes a Christian attitude towards personal health.

Legal Medications

- When students are carrying "over the counter" or prescribed medication or analgesics to be taken during the day, the College must be notified in writing by the parents.
- When students have long term medical or allergic conditions requiring medication, the College must be notified in writing by a doctor, through the parents, as to the nature of the drug and its appropriate use.

Inappropriate use of Drugs

In the context of this policy, the College does not allow students on any part of the College campus or any College related event:

- The use of prohibited or illegal drugs
- The inappropriate use of prescribed or "over the counter" medicines
- The inappropriate use of solvents or other chemical agents
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages while under-age or in excess, or in any College related contact or activity
- The smoking of tobacco, tobacco substitutes or other drugs
- The possession of drug related objects such as, but not restricted to; syringes, pipes, "bongs" etc. not prescribed for legal purposes
- The use or possession of steroids and other performance enhancing drugs.
- Attending College or authorised College activities while affected by drugs or with drugs, alcohol or cigarettes in their possession, or where there is evidence of recent use.



The College prohibits the possession, sale, supply, exchange or negotiation to use or acquire drugs when on College premises, or on any occasion when the staff of the College have responsibility for an individual or group of students, or while students are traveling to or from the College. Students involved in such activities in out-of-College social contexts will be dealt with according to this policy.

The Consequences of Breaches to the College Policy Regarding Drugs

In any instance where student's observed behaviour indicates that the above policy has been breached, the following action will be taken by the Principal or nominee.

1. The student is to be immediately suspended and the parents notified. At the discretion of the Principal or their nominee, the police informed.
2. The Principal will review the facts and meet with the student and his/her parents.
3. Immediate suspension as per sections above.
4. Immediate expulsion as per sections above.
5. The final decision regarding the form of disciplinary action will belong with the Principal.
6. Relevant information will be communicated to the appropriate teachers involved, and the wider student community notified of the breach of policy that has occurred and the action the College has taken.