



Rationale

Hope Christian College (HCC) is committed to maintaining a safe, secure and supportive environment for its community. In the event of any suspected drug- or substance-related incident the College goal is to ensure the wellbeing of the whole student and staff community.

Aim

HCC seeks to set clear boundaries about what is acceptable for students enrolled in the College, whether involved at College or in their personal life, concerning misuse or illegal use of substances or involvement with illegal substances that could cause harm to themselves or to a member of the community.

Policy statement

HCC has a zero tolerance policy regarding the manufacture, sale, supply, possession or harmful use or misuse of substances, particularly illegal substances. Students who are suspected of, or are involved in such activities and associations either within or outside of College hours face expulsion from HCC with the matter being referred to the Police.

Scope

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

- at College (see definition below)
- travelling to or from the College
- at any social or private activity in the wider community.

Definitions

at/to the College – this refers to being on the College grounds, but also to being present at College activities such as excursions, on or off site, and special days (e.g. Sports Days)

College community – this includes but may not be limited to: students, parents of students, immediate family of students, authorised volunteers, authorised visiting speakers and guests, staff (whether temporary, contracted or permanent), staff spouses and dependent children (who are not staff or family), College leadership, OSHC and CCC staff and leadership who are connected in some way to the College (e.g. not unconnected church attendees)

College leadership – includes Principal, principal's advisors and College Board

Head of School – refers to an appropriate Senior line manager or Coordinator

parent – includes caregivers and guardians, or responsible person as listed on the enrolment form

staff – refers to the student's class teacher or a paid Hope Christian College staff member who is working during College hours or activities

student – any student enrolled at Hope Christian College through a contract with their parent/guardian(s), regardless of their age

1. Definition of substances/drugs

Drugs, in this policy applies to:

- drugs of dependence or synthetic equivalents (e.g. illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin, marijuana, ecstasy, LSD, ketamine, etc.) or prohibited substances as listed in the *Controlled Substances Act* and other relevant regulations
- steroids and other performance enhancing drugs



- nicotine in any form including but not limited to:
 - cigarettes, cigars
 - chewing or sniffing tobacco
 - nicotine patches, gums, etc.
 - shishas (“hookahs”, “water pipes”)
 - e-cigarettes or vaping devices of any type, including vaporizers (e.g. “tanks”, “mods”)
- alcoholic beverages (e.g. wine, vodka, gin, etc.)
- inappropriate use of prescribed drugs, or use of prescription drugs that are not prescribed to the person using them
- inappropriate use of over the counter drugs or herbal equivalents.

2. College commitment

2.1 Education for students

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

- appropriate health and social education programs as embedded within the developmentally appropriate HCC curriculum
- an environment where drug use and abuse can be discussed safely with appropriate positive alternatives and avenues of assistance where needed
- an educational ethos which promotes a sense of the strong personal worth (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
- if a drug-related incident occurs, the College will endeavour to respond in such a way that harm to members of the College community is minimised and that the ongoing support for students involved, where possible, is ensured.

2.2 College-Banned Substances

The College has banned certain substances, that when misused, through, for example, inhaling or ingesting, can harm a student, induce an altered state of mind or impair judgement. These include but are not limited to:

- solvents or glues, stationery products such as correction fluid or similar
- energy drinks that are high in caffeine or other stimulants (e.g. *Mother, V, Red Bull, Prime, Monster*)
- any substances that carry an age-related warning will not be permitted at College in case of accidental use by younger students
- aerosols, including perfumed sprays as they risk inducing asthma, eczema or bringing on a severe migraine
- certain paints or art products, especially chemicals such as thinners
- petrol, fuel canisters, or other chemical agents
- beverages and foods that carry excessive amounts of caffeine, nicotine or other stimulants than is considered part of a normal diet
- excessive amounts of caffeine, nicotine or other stimulants taken through other means.

Please consult student manuals (e.g. Senior School Companion) and student portals for additional guidelines and directions concerning these matters, and any future directives through official College communications.



3. Breach procedures

The following procedures may take place according to College understanding of the severity of each breach of this policy.

3.1 Illegal Substance Use, Possession or Trade

The expectation of students at HCC is that they will have no dealings, involvement or association with illegal drug use, including the use of volatile substances. Such use may cause others to be influenced or affected contrary to College expectations, bring discredit or detriment upon themselves and is contrary to the Christian ethos of the College and will bring the College into disrepute.

It is important to note that the possession of illegal drugs by a student of HCC will result in the student being immediately removed from the College campus and suspended, pending expulsion.

Similarly, any of the following may incur the same disciplinary action by the College:

- possession or supplying of paraphernalia associated with illegal drug use (such as, but not restricted to, syringes, pipes, “bongs”, etc.)
- giving the impressions of taking drugs and simulating the use of drugs
- to attend College or any College activity while affected by drugs or alcohol
- creating, supplying or using drug paraphernalia
- being an accessory to or facilitating any of the aforementioned
- filming and/or publishing any of the aforementioned
- any acts similar to these, whether directly involved with the ingesting of the drug or not.

The matter may be referred to the Police. 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 College Board may be informed if necessary.

3.2 The Use or Abuse of Prescription or Over-the-Counter Drugs

Students at HCC found to be using prescription, over-the-counter, legal drugs for other than a diagnosed medical condition, or in a manner in which the drug should not be used, will be deemed by the terms of this policy to be abusing such substances, and will be suspended and their enrolment in the College to be reconsidered.

3.2.1 Supplying prescription drugs to other students

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

3.2.2 Seeking possession of prescription drugs from students

In the case of students seeking to gain possession of prescription drugs for other students, or for personal or other use, such students may be expelled and the police informed, depending on the circumstances. It is College policy that no student should ever give another student any form of medication (even over-the-counter medication) while at College (see *HCC Medication Administration Policy*).

3.2.3 Use of legal prescriptions and over-the-counter medications

When students are carrying over-the-counter or prescribed medication to be taken during the day, the College must be notified in writing by the parents. The College requires that all medications be brought to College to be stored and administered in Student Services. For students who have long term medical or allergic conditions requiring medication, the parents must provide the College with the appropriate



Medical Action Plan from their doctor as to the nature of the condition, the drug and its appropriate use (see *HCC Medication Administration Policy* or appropriate medical policies for specific conditions).

3.3 Possession of Alcohol or Cigarettes (or e-cigarettes) at College

If any student is found to be in possession of alcohol or cigarettes (or e-cigarettes) of any form on any part of the College campus or during a College activity, the student will be suspended and their enrolment reviewed by the Principal.

3.3.1 The supply of alcohol

The supply of alcohol to other students on any part of the College campus or at a College activity will result in the beginning of the student's expulsion process.

3.3.2 Illegal under-age behaviours

The drinking of any alcoholic beverage or the use of cigarettes of any kind including e-cigarettes, under 18 is illegal and students participating in an illegal activity in or outside of College operating hours will also result in the Principal's review of the student's enrolment.

3.4 Possession of College-Banned substances

Where a student is found to possess, or found to give or sell to another student, one of these substances, the item will be confiscated and discarded (e.g. correction fluid). If the item is unopened or of moderate value, arrangement may be made for the student's parent to collect the item (e.g. a perfume spray) from the College Office.

Students may not use the emptied containers of banned items to store other materials, as this may cause possible harm by wrongful ingestion or use, and may cause students confusion about what is not to be brought to the College (e.g. using a *Prime* energy drink container as a water bottle).

3.5 Reasonable Belief of a Breach (where no evidence is present)

In the instance where a student's observed behaviour indicates that this policy has been breached, but there is an absence of reliable evidence or eye-witness account, for the wellbeing of the student, the following action will be taken by the relevant Head of School:

- review the facts and meet with the student and their parents
- at the Principal's discretion in accordance with this policy, the Police may be informed
- the student will be immediately suspended pending possible expulsion
- the final decision regarding the form of disciplinary action to be taken belongs to the Principal
- relevant information will be communicated to the appropriate staff involved
- the wider student community will be notified of the breach of policy that has occurred and the action that the College has taken
- counselling may be offered to the student.

4. Privacy and media

All staff who deal with a minor who has been involved with an incident where drugs or alcohol are involved will be careful to respect the privacy of those involved, only sharing information and details in an effort to support members of the College community.

Additionally, the Principal (or delegate) will deal with any media personnel who may either present at, or phone the College, in a way that will not contravene the *Privacy Act* or the *HCC Privacy Policy* or damage the College's reputation. Staff are not to engage with any media personnel about College incidents without



the Principal's express permission.

Other relevant policies and documents

- HCC Medication Administration Policy
- HCC specific medical procedures and policies
- HCC Privacy Policy
- Australian Privacy Act 1988
- HCC Staff Manual (annually updated)
- Student manuals & portals

Previous versions

Supersedes the *HCC Drug Abuse Policy, 2014, September 2021*

Review

The policy will be reviewed every three years or when a new legislation or condition dictates, by relevant staff and leadership of the College, with advice from the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia (AISSA) and other relevant bodies, codes and regulations.