



# Drugs Policy

<b>Version</b>	4
<b>Short description</b>	Lumen Christi College encourages students to make healthy choices by not exposing themselves or other persons to a risk of injury or harm to health by supplying or using drugs.
<b>Relevant to</b>	All students
<b>Authority</b>	This Policy has been approved by the Leadership Team
<b>Responsible officer</b>	Director of Operations
<b>Date introduced</b>	2007
<b>Date(s) modified</b>	2010, 2014, 2020
<b>Next scheduled review date</b>	2025 (or as the need arises)
<b>Related documents</b>	<a href="#">Lumen Christi College Behaviour Management Policy</a>

## Drugs Policy

### Introduction

As a Catholic school, Lumen Christi College aims to be a caring community in which each student feels safe and where they know that his/her personal dignity is valued.

Lumen Christi College encourages students to make healthy choices by not exposing themselves or other persons to a risk of injury or harm to health by supplying or using drugs.

A student who is found to be in possession of, under the influence of, supplying or buying drugs will be subject to sanctions as determined by the Principal.

### Rationale:

This drug policy has been established in an attempt to:

- Illustrate clearly to the community the stand Lumen Christi College will take in support of the efforts made by families to rear their children in a well-informed and safe environment
- Address measures of prevention, intervention and sanctions in regard to drug use
- Be consistent with State and Federal laws and the guidelines set down by the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia

Drug use is a complex issue and it is recognised that drug problems result from a combination of many contributing factors. The College's response, therefore, is as comprehensive as possible.

### Definitions:

A drug is defined (for the purposes of this policy) as 'any substance, with the exception of food and water which, when taken into the body, alters its function physically and/or psychologically'. This definition includes all drugs e.g.: analgesics, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, amphetamines, etc. While not classified as drugs, solvents (also called volatile substances) are to be included in this College policy.

### Principles:

This Drug Policy has the following aims in mind:

- To publish guidelines for the prevention of and intervention in the possession, use and distribution of drugs
- To outline the consequences for students found possessing, under the influence of, or buying, selling, or supplying drugs, which could include suspension or exclusion from the College
- To outline the educational approach to be taken with regard to the prevention, the intervention and the consequences of drug abuse
- To establish a process to maintain the dignity of the individual at all times

### Procedures:

#### Prevention

Drug use is a complex issue and it is recognised that the role of the College in its prevention requires a comprehensive approach.

This approach will facilitate:

- An opportunity within the curriculum and pastoral programs for students to reflect on, discuss, and learn processes that assist in making correct decisions
- Access for students, parents and staff to College personnel, College Psychologist and College Counsellor to help in areas of communication and counselling
- A College behaviour management plan
- A practice of Pastoral Care within the school that allows each child to feel valued and have a sense of self-worth
- Promotional displays and activities

## **Intervention**

The intervention procedures are designed to address drug use incidents in a manner which considers the best interest of all parties, while also conforming to legal requirements.

Regardless of age, when on school premises or at College functions, students are not permitted to:

- Be in possession of, or smoke, tobacco products
- Be in possession of, or consume, alcoholic beverages
- Be under the influence of any drug or alcohol
- Deliberately inhale solvents
- Possess drug-related equipment such as syringes, pipes, or other smoking implements, etc. (Misuse of Drugs Act, 1981) except in cases of lawful medical use, or equipment related to the use of tobacco or alcohol related products
- Possess or use prohibited drugs in accordance with the 1981 Act
- Arrange for distribution and/or sale of illegal substances or to be involved in situations which may put other students at risk
- Supply, consume or be under the influence of pharmaceutical drugs not prescribed to the student

We note that 'on school premises or at a College function' includes any time a student is engaged in a school activity and or while wearing the College uniform.

## **Sanctions**

The procedures outlined below have the emotional and physical health and welfare of the individual student/s involved as a priority. They also seek to protect the interests of the wider College community.

- Each instance will be considered individually
- In each instance, the College Leadership Team will determine sanctions and support needed
- If a student is suspected of being under the influence of a drug, the College will contact a parent/guardian. Further action may be taken, depending on the circumstances.

## **Conclusion**

In developing and implementing a Drug Policy, the College reinforces its role in the prevention of drug abuse problems and demonstrates its responsiveness to an issue of community concern.

This Drug Policy is designed to protect the welfare of students and staff by ensuring that incidents involving drug use are addressed rationally and in a manner that reflects the College Mission Statement.

This Drug Policy ensures confidentiality and access to counselling if necessary.

This Drug Policy ensures each incident is dealt with according to the nature of the infringement as well as maintaining the dignity of all those involved.