

Student Drugs and Drug Education Policy

Formulated by: The Ave Maria College Drug Education Forum Committee

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the *CEOM Policy 2.13 Drug Issues in Catholic Schools (2009)* and *2.26 Pastoral Care for Students in Catholic Schools (2009)*, the Ave Maria College *Student Wellbeing Policy*, the Ave Maria College *Restorative Practices Policy* and the *Health Promoting Schools Framework*.

The College does not permit the use, possession or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs, pharmaceutical drugs or other chemicals such as paint, petrol or glue which can produce an intoxicating effect. Nor does the College permit the use, possession or distribution of drug paraphernalia on College premises.

Mission Statement:

"Ave Maria College is committed to implementing policies which support both the individual and the community and to assist our students to develop positive attitudes towards life and learning".

Definitions:

- Drugs are substances which may alter mental and/or physical processes such as mood, cognition, thinking, behaviour or physical performance.
- Drugs may include legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco or pharmaceuticals.
- Drugs may also be illegal substances; the production, sale, possession or use of which is prohibited.

Intentions:

Our Student Drugs and Drug Education Policy will:

1. Raise critical awareness by educating students about drugs and physical, emotional and psychological effects of drug usage.
2. Discourage student involvement in the use, possession and/or distribution of tobacco, alcohol and other illicit drugs through a harm minimisation approach.
3. Guide the development, implementation and cyclical review of a relevant and comprehensive education about drugs as a core component of the curriculum.
4. Require the drug education program to be commensurate with the abilities of students to make informed and free choices.
5. Require the drug education program to recognise the appropriate uses of beneficial drugs.
6. Expect the drug education program to be delivered in a supportive, student-centred classroom by teachers who have appropriate knowledge, skills and up to date methodology to teach drug education effectively.

Consequences

The College will:

1. Seek to develop an educational environment that promotes supportive relationships, connectedness and resilience.
2. Maintain wellbeing procedures that aim
 - a. to support students at risk of drug-related harm and
 - b. to work in tandem with education about drugs
 - c. to implement a harm minimisation approach



3. Seek to involve parents and students in a whole-school approach to drug education.
4. Seek to develop positive working relationships between College support staff and key drug and alcohol community agencies to ensure student wellbeing needs are met.
5. Use resources made available by government and community agencies.
6. Evaluate the policy on a cyclical basis.

Ratified by: Board of Governance

Date: 23 June 2008, reviewed 26 May 2009