



John Willcock College POLICY STATEMENT ON DRUGS

RATIONALE

The possession or use of illegal substances by students at school is not acceptable under any circumstances.

- Being intoxicated does not excuse a breach of school discipline by a student. However, a breach of school discipline committed by an intoxicated student must be dealt with only after the safety and wellbeing of the student has been secured.
- Drug use is a complex issue and drug use problems result from a combination of many contributing factors. At John Willcock College the response is therefore as comprehensive as possible. The intention of this Policy is to respond to incidents of drug use in a caring and consistent manner.
- A Harm Reduction Approach to drug use and risk taking behaviour associated with it has been adopted at John Willcock College. This is in accordance with Department of Education and Training, the West Australian Health Department and the National Drug Taskforce guidelines.
- John Willcock College recognises the need to take the necessary action to reduce the risk and harm faced by those using drugs and aims to achieve this by working in partnership with students, parents and the wider community.
- Not inhibit students from seeking assistance for another student who is intoxicated and in need of medical treatment, or at risk of harm to themselves or others. This will not impact on any responsibility of the Principal to refer matters to the police;
- Be cautious in judgement, as a student's presentation may be impacted by a range of individual and environmental factors, including disability, illness or injury, which may manifest in similar ways to intoxication;
- Consider possession, supply or sale of restricted or illegal substances by students on school sites or at any off-site school activities to be breaches of school discipline. This can include supply or sale by a student that occurs outside the school where this contributes to a student presenting intoxicated at school or at an off-site school activity.

DEFINITION

Drug: *'any substance, that when introduced to the body can alter physical and/or psychological structure or function'.*

PREVENTION

This Policy will provide a whole College approach to the issue of drug use which involves education, counselling and appropriate disciplinary and legal action as required.

- John Willcock College has a comprehensive Health Education program, which includes drug education as an important part of the Year 8 and 9 Curriculum.
- In this sensitive and demanding area of teaching, where possible, the program is delivered by teachers who are appropriately trained. We aim to provide professional development for all staff to ensure current and relevant drug education is available.
- A healthy College environment supports drug education. This is demonstrated by initiatives such as the Smarter Than Smoking/ Quit campaigns.

- Parent and community programs such as “Drink Safe” are promoted to inform and empower parents throughout the College.
- The Student Services team maintains a support link with appropriate agencies and provides opportunities for parents to receive drug related information or learn about and discuss drug related issues.

INTERVENTION

The intervention procedure is designed to address incidents of use in ways, which are in the best interest of all parties, which conforms with legal requirements.

The College does not permit students, while on College premises, or at College functions where students are present to:

- Consume and/or possess alcoholic beverages
- Possession of prohibited drugs (Misuse of Drugs Act, 1981)
- Deliberately inhale solvents
- Be under the influence of any of the above
- Smoke tobacco products
- Possess drug related equipment/paraphernalia
- Be in possession of excessive amounts of legal substances
- Sell or provide legal medication to other students.

COMMUNICATION

Where appropriate, follow up procedures will occur and counselling will be made available to the student after discussion with support personnel, parents/guardians (outside counselling agencies may be contacted at this stage). Communication will occur with relevant staff in response to drug incidents. Staff are required to maintain confidentiality.

COLLEGE RESPONSE

Staff will be mindful that intoxication may make a student’s behaviour volatile and unpredictable. Staff will take care not to provoke a response that places the student or staff at risk of injury.

Staff will:

- Remain calm: try to be friendly and non-judgemental, avoid transferring anxiety;
- tell the student you are concerned for their safety;
- keep your distance; ensure the student knows what you are going to do before you approach or touch them;
- stand to the side of the student when speaking to ensure they feel less threatened; try to avoid talking to the student in front of other students to avoid embarrassment; and
- try to find a friend of the student – intoxicated people are likely to listen more to a familiar voice.

Staff will not:

- confront the student
- argue with the student
- try to physically restrain the student (unless this is needed as a last resort where other strategies have failed and risk of harm to self or others is judged to be imminent);
- allow the student to leave the school site on their own; or
- leave the student alone

INTERVENTION

Incidents	Student Response	How Parents can Help
<i>First Offence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend compulsory counselling with Community Health Nurse Attend any lunchtime detention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to College's contact by talking about the problem with child. Support College attempts to prevent further offences occurring.
SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the required duration of suspension. Attend all counselling. Attend meetings or sessions organised with outside agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend meeting at College to develop Behaviour Modification Plan. Seek assistance from community agencies. Support and reward student for displaying change in behaviour.

Possession

- In all cases where a student is in possession of using, and/or selling/supplying illegal drugs and drug related equipment, the police will be informed.
- Students who are in possession of illicit drugs and/or alcohol will be suspended. Students will be required to attend compulsory College counselling, with a counsellor of their own choice, or COMPARI, which may be offered during the term of the suspension.
- Drugs/related equipment found in a student's possession will be confiscated by the Principal and given to police.

Under the Influence

In the event that there is a breach of school discipline involving a student who is reasonably believed to be intoxicated, the Principal will:

- Not apply disciplinary sanction for the breach until the immediate requirements relating to the student's health and welfare have been satisfied;
- Where applying a suspension, only release the student into the care of an adult. Where an arrangement for this transfer of care has not been reached with the parent(s), the Principal will not release a student into the community. The Principal will either keep the student under supervision at school, or have the student conveyed to a medical facility.
- Students who are suspected to be under the influence of illicit drugs will be referred to the Community Health Nurse or the Manager of Student Services or Associate Principal. Both the Principal and the student's parents will be notified if these suspicions are verified.
- Students under the influence of illicit drugs and/or alcohol will face out of College suspension. The Principal will inform the Police of such incidents.
- Students will be required to attend compulsory College counselling, which may be offered during the term of the suspension.

The College recommends that parents access outside counselling to assist students at this stage.

COLLEGE CONTACTS: DRUG SERVICES

John Willcock College

Student Services Manager
College Psychologist
College Nurse
College Chaplain
AIEO

9965 8300

COMPARI

Geraldton Streetworkers Aboriginal Corporation
Womens' Health Centre
Parent Drug Information Centre
Alcohol and Drug Information Services

9956 2424

9921 2890

1800 196 688

1800 653 203

1800 198 024

SDERA (Kate McConkey)

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