



Rationale

Drug use and drug-related issues confront most communities at some time in varied ways. School communities are well aware of the impact of harmful drugs and illicit substances on students and their families and accept that they, as well as parents, governments and the wider community, have a role to play in reducing the harm that can arise from their use. (CEOM Policy 2.13)

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that a consistent and informed approach to drug education and related incidents is developed and implemented by the College. This policy is based on the principles of harm minimisation, and aims to prevent and reduce drug-related harm through prevention and early intervention strategies as well as the management of drug or illicit substance use including the use, supply and use of drug paraphernalia by students.

Scripture

‘All members may be concerned for one another. If one member suffers, all members suffer: if one member is honoured, all members share this joy. You then are the body of Christ.’
(I Corinthians 12:25-27)

Vision

Inspired by the life of Christ, our Presentation Heritage and the Salesian Charism, Nagle College is a Catholic community that welcomes, builds strong relationships, evangelizes and prepares young people for life.

Mission

So that all members of the Nagle College community can live out the College motto “Let your light shine”, we will:

- Develop a safe, nurturing and hope-filled community based on Christ’s message of love, justice and service.
- Be people of dignity, respect, compassion, resilience and unconditional love.

Policy

Drug use or abuse by students can raise a number of issues for schools, including the duty of care owed to students from reasonably foreseeable harm, as well as the disclosure and confidentiality of information, safety of students and others, health promotion and the management of drug related offences. The CECV has entered into a Memorandum of Association with each school sector and Victoria Police to ensure appropriate action is taken in response to criminal offences including drug related incidents. (Catholic Schools Operational Guide 2019).

The possession, use, distribution or selling of illicit drugs or illicit substances on College premises at any time including any function or activity organised by the College is prohibited. In the case of incidents involving illicit or unsanctioned drug or substance use at the College, initial actions and responses will focus on the safety and wellbeing of those directly and indirectly involved.

Under the Memorandum of Association signed by the CECV if the Principal of a school has knowledge of the use, possession and distribution of illicit drugs at the school, the local designated police officer must be contacted in order for a collaborative approach with the wellbeing of the young person being the priority. Nagle College will work with Victoria Police to ensure appropriate action is taken in response to drug-related incidents including those involving illicit drugs.



When an alleged incident occurs the parent or guardian will be notified and be part of any on-going procedures.

Where there is a belief on reasonable grounds that a student is concealing or taking illicit drugs or substances, parents/guardians and the police will be notified. In the interim, a member of the College Leadership Team or other designated person may instruct the student to empty his school bag and pockets. Those items found to be illicit will be referred to the police for investigation.

In the case of a school locker, as it is the property of the school, this can be searched without notice.

If police interview a student at school regarding a drug related issue, the parent(s) or legal guardians will be given every opportunity to attend the interview. If they decline, a designate will attend the interview.

Nagle College has the right to refuse any intoxicated or drug affected person, access to the College or a College activity and the right to evict any such affected person. As a smoke free school no person is allowed to smoke on the school grounds.

In the case where only internal College rules have been breached (e.g. smoking cigarettes), the College will impose consequences consistent with its internal behaviour management program.

Definitions

Drugs include a range of substances, including prescription medications, alcohol, tobacco and illicit substances. Some drugs are described as “illicit” or “unsanctioned”. “**Illicit**” refers to drugs that the law makes it illegal to use, possess, cultivate or traffic. “**Unsanctioned**” refers to legal drugs that are illegal for young persons to purchase in some circumstances, for example, alcohol.

For the purposes of this policy where the word “drug” is used it refers to illicit or unsanctioned drugs. “*Supply*” refers to incidents involving sharing, distribution or selling of drugs.

A “*harm minimisation*” approach acknowledges that some people may use drugs at some stage of their life, making it critical that students acquire knowledge and skills that will assist them in making informed decisions about their drug use and so minimise any harmful effect associated with that.

Guiding Principles

1. Nagle College is a “Smoke Free Area” at all times.
2. Students who require prescribed pharmaceutical medications at school, and are under the supervision of a treating medical practitioner for that pharmaceutical, must have written permission from parent or guardian.
3. Students may not possess, use or be under the influence of cigarettes, alcohol or any other drugs, illicit or unsanctioned, whilst at the College or when representing or identifiable with the College.
4. Students may not offer for sale or distribute to other students illicit or other unsanctioned drugs whilst at the College or when representing or identifiable with the College.
5. In line with the College’s approach to behavioral issues, a range of responses to drug related incidents may be appropriate. Factors to be taken into consideration by the Principal in determining appropriate action would include the age and circumstances of the student(s) concerned, provision of the safety of others in the school, the legality of any incident under



Victorian law, CECV Policy and consideration for the ongoing welfare of the student and provision for the welfare of the family.

6. The range of responses available to the Principal or delegate include but not limited to:

- Caution and warnings
- Detention
- Suspension
- Conditional Enrolment
- Community service
- Professional counselling
- Recommendation to the Catholic Education Office to consider withdrawal of the student's enrolment at the College.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Subsequent offences in relation to possession and/or distribution of illicit or other unsanctioned drugs whilst at the College will carry strong consequences and suspension or a recommendation of withdrawal from the College is likely.

References/Legislative Context

- Drugs and School Legal Issues – A guide for Principals 2009. 3rd Edition DEECD, Melbourne.
- Catholic Schools Operational Guide accessed online May 2019.
- CEO Sale Policy 2.11 Management of Student Behaviour of a Serious or Harmful Nature.