



CANBERRA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Drug Policy

School Values

Canberra Grammar School seeks to work with boys to assist them to build good, rewarding, and healthy lives. We aim to achieve this through a number of programs in the curricular, co-curricular and (traditionally) pastoral dimensions of the school. We strive constantly to provide a safe and supportive school environment and to develop in our students the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to enable them to make responsible decisions regarding drugs and drug use.

We believe that for a student to lead a good life at school, and beyond, he will need a positive outlook, high self-esteem, strong connectedness, a sense of purpose, a capacity to look beyond himself to the outside world, and a set of capabilities to ensure personal fulfilment. The School seeks always to promote the building of positive lives, and believes that the development of the personal qualities above protects boys from the harmful effects of drug use.

Aim of the Policy

The aim of this policy is to:

- Provide clarity in relation to the School's position on drugs
- Outline the School's aims in relation to drug education
- Explain how the School will intervene and what action the School will take in the case of student breaches of this policy
- Be consistent with State and Federal laws
- Reflect the National School Drug Education Strategy and National Framework for Protocols for Managing Illicit and Other Unsanctioned Drugs in Schools (DEST, June 2000)

Definitions

For the purpose of this document, a drug is a substance which produces a psychoactive effect (alters mental processes including mood, cognition, thinking or behaviour). The term drug is used generically to include tobacco and herbal cigarettes, alcohol, pharmaceutical drugs, illicit drugs, image and performance enhancing drugs, inhalants and kava.

An **Illicit Drug** is drug for which the production, sale, possession or use is prohibited. An alternative term is 'illegal drug'.

An **Unsanctioned Drug** is a drug whose use is restricted by law, school authorities and/or school policies/guidelines. It includes illicit, social and prescription drugs, but an unsanctioned drug is not necessarily illegal. For example, alcohol is an unsanctioned drug.

Drug Paraphernalia includes hypodermic needles, balloons, aluminium foil wrappers, mirrors or flat metal, short straws, glass pipes, bongos, smoking pipes, capsules, vials, folded paper envelopes, a cigarette lighter etc.

Education

For the majority, education prevents substance abuse. Through the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education curriculum, the Religious and Values Education curriculum and the Pastoral Care structures and programs that also involve the Outdoor Education and Co-curricular programs, Canberra Grammar aims to ensure that students develop resilience, hold functional values and can make wise choices regarding substance abuse. We aim to see that students:

- are informed about the known impact of drugs on the body and mind so they are equipped to make choices based on fact
- are informed about the social impact of drugs, so they understand the impact that drug use will have on their ability to function in society, and on the impact the widespread use of drugs has on society itself
- are encouraged to make choices leading to healthy, productive, and rewarding lifestyles

- are informed of the law in relation to the possession and use of drugs, and are led to the belief that all citizens have a duty to uphold the law
- are actively and decisively discouraged from the possession and use of illicit and unsanctioned drugs
- are encouraged to use pharmaceuticals appropriately
- are provided with strategies for harm minimisation in the event they or their peers are involved in an incident concerning the use of drugs of any kind
- are provided with the necessary, appropriate guidance and support should they be involved detrimentally with drugs, with the aim that they cease the harmful use of drugs
- are ensured of an environment in which they are protected from those who would seek to act contrary to the school's objectives in relation to drugs

Working with Parents

All parents exercise an essential responsibility in relation to their children's education about drugs. Through their example and their teaching, from their children's earliest years right through the school years and beyond, parents work to develop in their children the personal qualities and values which will guide them away from the harmful use of drugs. It is essential that parents and the School are aligned in this crucial aim of equipping boys to avoid harmful drug use. An important aspect of this policy is the development of partnerships with parents, both in smaller groups and through information and discussion evenings.

POLICY

It is the school policy that while on any of the school campuses or engaged in any school-related activity, students (regardless of being of legal age) are not permitted to:

- Possess drug-related paraphernalia
- Possess, supply, use or be under the influence of illicit drugs
- Possess, supply, use or be under the influence of unsanctioned drugs

The law regarding the possession and supply of illicit drugs is clear. The community at large expects that a school will convey through its actions and teachings that it does not in any way encourage or condone any form of drug use that is prohibited by this policy.

Intervention and Action

In the event of a student being suspected of breaching the policy, the School will conduct an investigation and if the suspicions prove to be true, will contact parents and put in place an appropriate intervention .

There is one circumstance in which the student's enrolment will be cancelled. Because the School owes a duty to care to all students, we will take immediate action to protect students from those who would seek to bring drugs into their lives. Therefore, any student who is involved in the procurement of illicit drugs for another student at any school related activity whether in the school grounds or outside, will have his enrolment cancelled immediately. There will be a presumption that a person acting as a courier for others in procuring illicit and/or unsanctioned substances will be the person seen as responsible for the supply or procurement of the substance.

Where an intervention is put in place, the prime objective in all cases is the cessation of the drug use. Because the safety and welfare of each student is paramount, the school will meet its objectives for individual students in ways that are tailored to the individual's circumstances.

Interventions will generally involve staff within the School such as the boy's Housemaster, Tutor, the Counsellor, Director of Pastoral Care and the school's medical staff. Outside agencies may also be involved where appropriate.

There is a mandatory mutual obligation on the part of any student who is the subject of remedial intervention by the School: he will cooperatively engage in the remedies prescribed by the School. The remedies will involve a substantial commitment on the part of the student, and will be linked to the potential harm of the usage. Students undertaking an intervention plan and their parents will be required to commit to the plan in writing. As in all matters, the School looks for growth in students, and seeks evidence of lessons being learned from students' mistakes. Because of this, repeat offences by an individual will be viewed very seriously indeed.

Where illicit drugs have been involved, the School must be convinced that a wholehearted and honest attempt has been made by the student to cease his involvement with drugs. If the student remains demonstrably free from any further involvement, then the student's enrolment will not be brought into question. It will be the responsibility of the student to demonstrate the cessation of drug use by undergoing appropriate drug testing, and to furnish the results to the School at the intervals determined by the School to be appropriate.

A failure at any time to meet all of the conditions prescribed by the School at the time of dealing with the matter of involvement with illicit drugs will see the student's enrolment cancelled immediately. The School will involve

appropriate external agencies as required in individual cases.

In addition to a prescribed Intervention, other actions, sanctions and consequences will be decided upon by the Headmaster at his absolute discretion and will depend upon the circumstances of the incident and previous behaviour of the student.

Consequences might include one or more of the following:

- Detention
- Community service
- Suspension from School or activities
- Referral to an outside agency
- Regular counselling
- Student contract
- Referral to the Australian Federal Police
- Periodic drug testing to ensure the student is remaining drug-free
- Withdrawal
- Expulsion
- Other actions deemed appropriate by the Headmaster

Review and Evaluation

Policy and procedures for managing drug related incidents will be regularly monitored and evaluated, while ensuring the privacy of individuals is protected.