



# **ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & ILLICIT DRUGS POLICY**

## Alcohol, Tobacco & Illicit Drugs Policy 2020

<b>Purpose:</b>	The purpose of this policy is to prevent the possession, use, sale and distribution of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs and related implements by students whilst attending school or at a school- related activity	
<b>Scope:</b>	All Wisdom College staff, students, including those aged 18 years and over, and parents	
<b>Status:</b>	Approved	<b>Supersedes:</b> Anti-Smoking Policy 2017
<b>Authorised by:</b>	School Governing Body	<b>Date of Authorisation:</b> April 2020
<b>References:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u><i>Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 (Qld)</i></u></li> <li>• <u><i>Liquor Act 1992 (Qld)</i></u></li> <li>• <u><i>Australian Privacy Principles</i></u></li> <li>• Wisdom College Enrolment Contract</li> <li>• Wisdom College Employee and Parent Alcohol Policy</li> </ul>	
<b>Review Date:</b>	Biennial	<b>Next Review Date:</b> April 2022
<b>Policy Owner:</b>	School Governing Body	<b>Version:</b> 2.0 <b>Dated:</b> April 2020

### Policy Statement

Wisdom College has a zero tolerance policy towards student use, possession, sale and distribution of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs and related instruments whilst attending school or at school-related activities.

### Action plan

If Wisdom College becomes aware, or reasonable suspects, that a student has alcohol, tobacco or illicit drugs at the school or at a school-related activity, the school will take the following action, as appropriate in the circumstances:

- Firstly, ensuring the safety of the student/s concerned.
- Confiscate the substance and/or implement if appropriate.
- Interview the student/s.
- Contact the student/s' parents.
- Report the matter to the police if appropriate.
- Offer appropriate support to any student involved in the matter.
- Implement any other consequences or actions that might be appropriate in the circumstances, including possible disciplinary action.
- Consider the need to communicate the incident to employees, students and parents, taking into account the privacy of the student/s and family concerned, the *Australian Privacy Principles* and the duty of care the school owes to other students.

### Reporting to Police

Wisdom College will report relevant matters to the Police when it is in the student's or school community's best interests, as well as when:

- a student is trafficking drugs in the school
- a student is incorrigibly taking drugs in the school.

## Searching and Confiscating Property

In accordance with Wisdom College Enrolment Policy and Enrolment Form, the school will search a student's property, including lockers and bags, and may confiscate banned items, when it believes it is appropriate in the circumstances.

When items have been confiscated, Wisdom College will take the following action:

- if the police have been involved in the matter, give it to them
- if the substance is inherently dangerous, destroy it
- if possession of the substance is illegal, destroy it
- if none of the three scenarios above applies, give it to the student or to those who are responsible for the student.

## Definitions

**Illicit drugs:** are taken to include illegal drugs and related implements, as well as legal drugs and substances being used for non-medical (i.e. recreational) purposes. Examples would include cannabis, dexamphetamine used for non-medical purposes and inhalants such as spray paints.

## Responsibilities

### School Responsibilities

Wisdom College acknowledges its responsibility to:

- Develop and implement this Policy to help ensure the safety of students.
- Communicate this Policy to students, parents and employees.
- Keep appropriate records, monitor and report on any issues related to the use, possession, sale or distribution of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug or related implements at the school or at school-related activities.
- Encourage students, parents and employees to contribute to a healthy school culture.

### **Employee Responsibilities**

At Wisdom College, employees have a responsibility to:

- Uphold the school's Policy on this issue.
- Try to prevent and appropriately respond to any instances of use, possession, sale or distribution of alcohol, tobacco or illicit drugs or related implements at the school or at school-related events, in accordance with this Policy and other relevant Wisdom College policies.

### **Parent Responsibilities**

At Wisdom College parents have a responsibility to:

- Read and understand, and ensure their child reads and understands, this Policy.
- Ensure, as far as possible, that their child does not use, possess, sell or distribute alcohol, tobacco or illicit drugs or related implements at the school or at school-related events.

### **Student Responsibilities**

At Wisdom College, students have a responsibility to:

- Not use, possess, sell or distribute alcohol, tobacco or illicit drugs or related instruments whilst at school or attending school-related activities.

### **Implementation**

From 1 September 2016 The Queensland Government enacted under Tobacco Act 1987 to prohibit no-smoking at state and non-state schools, and for 5 metres beyond their boundaries. This applies to;

- anyone present on school premises during and after school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents/guardians or the wider community, such as sporting groups.
- all activities that take place on school premises including pre-schools, kindergartens, outside school hours care, cultural, sporting or recreational activities and school fetes.
- the policy does not apply to a person;
  - in an area that is separated from school premises by a road; or
  - at residential premises or on land at which residential premises are built or may lawfully be built; or

- in an outdoor dining or drinking area; or
- who is not remaining at or near the pedestrian access point but is merely passing by the pedestrian access point.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985, requires employers to provide a safe workplace, as far as practicable, without risks to health. Failure to comply with the Act is an offence.

No Smoking sign will be erected at prominent places within the Campus.

### **School Procedures**

A combination of counselling and disciplinary measures will accompany any incidents of student/staff smoking. The following procedures are to be implemented when a student is found smoking or in the company of smokers, on school premises or at a school sponsored activity:

- First Offence: Parent Contact – Reminding of Anti-Smoking Policy – suspension from school (including extra-curricular activities) and counselling.
- Second Offence: Parent Contact – The offence will be counted as serious offence which needs to be dealt by The Discipline Committee.

When a staff is found smoking or in the company of smokers, on school premises, necessary action(s) will be decided by Management Committee.

Find out more about the [tobacco laws in Queensland](#), including the requirements for food and drink businesses, outdoor public areas and the rules about tobacco sales using the following link;

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/atods/smoking/laws/index.html>