



For Christ's Crown & Covenant

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## **Drug Policy and Procedures**

**Student**

**Category C**

**Web Version 2.0**

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## 1 Purpose

### 1.1 Rationale

Today in Australia, the widespread abuse of drugs and narcotics is a cancer that is having a devastating effect on our nation. This includes the abuse of prescription drugs.

However, Covenant Christian School clearly advocates that students take the drugs prescribed to them by a doctor for a health condition. Prescription drugs taken as prescribed by the patient are essential to their physical, and often mental health.

Illicit drugs are linked to virtually every evil and criminal activity within our society. These are involved in fights, murders, domestic violence and are often manufactured by criminal bikie gangs.

When a person is intoxicated or affected by drugs he or she is incapable of clear thinking and reasonable reactions. Being intoxicated is clearly condemned in scripture. So, if one uses drugs or anything else to escape and get high, or is addicted to these substances, it is against the commands of scripture and inappropriate for Christian participation.

When considering the area of drugs and/or drug usage/abuse at the School we start with reference to the Bible, the very Word of God written. It is the power of God unto salvation, the truth that enlightens our understanding and the only infallible authority for all our activity... That framework of truth presented to us in the Bible – a Christian world and life view – underlies our understanding of everything at the School, including such issues as drugs.

The Drug Policy is part of the School's implementation of the National Safe Schools Framework which is based on the following overarching vision:

*All Australian schools are safe, supportive and respectful teaching and learning communities that promote student wellbeing.*

Covenant Christian School is committed to its Vision and Mission:

**Vision:**

In dependence on God's grace, Covenant Christian School will nurture and equip students with a heart to glorify God by serving Him and living according to His Word.

**Mission:**

Covenant Christian School is a safe, caring and loving community. In partnership with parents we cultivate Christian character in our students and equip them to serve God and contribute positively to society.

This will be achieved through a Christ-centred approach where the gospel is central. God's Word is applied to all areas of learning and experience. Students and staff are challenged, encouraged and supported to love learning and pursue excellence to the glory of God.

## 1.2 **Biblical Principles<sup>1</sup>**

The use of mind-bending drugs is inappropriate for serious followers of Christ. As the Bible says, “Old things are passed away... all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Therefore, every believer should seek to put on the new creation of Christ, and to put off the old life, including the continued use of mind altering drugs and narcotics. Everything we do is for the glory of God.

Christians should not involve themselves with drugs for the following reasons:

### 1.2.1 **Addictions Are Not Pleasing to God**

An addiction is anything we cannot free ourselves from, which overrules our freedom to choose, whether physically or psychological. As Christians, we are given power over habits and behavior - they should not have power over us.

“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” (1 Corinthians 6:12)

### 1.2.2 **Drug use will Cause Others to Stumble**

According to the Bible, believers are accountable to avoid anything which would lead our brethren astray or cause them to stumble in their relationship with God.

“It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.” (Romans 14:21)

For the sake of our brethren in Christ, and for our own protection from temptation, the Bible tells us to refrain from anything that may even “appear” sinful. “Abstain from every form of evil” (1 Thessalonians. 5:22).

### 1.2.3 **Christians are no Longer Their Own**

The Bible says that we belong to the Lord and we are to glorify Him with our body and with the way we live.

“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Corinthians 6:20)

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

### 1.2.4 **We’re not to be Intoxicated by Mind Bending Stimulants**

The Bible warns believers to not be intoxicated by alcohol, and (by implication) other stimulants such as drugs which distort our thinking or alter our ability to control our behavior. Instead, the Scriptures teach that we should be under the influence of God’s

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<sup>1</sup> [Based on *Drugs & the Christian* by Rev. Dale A. Robbins, Knox Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan]

power -- that is, we should be filled with His Spirit which gives us the joy of His power, peace and strength.

“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:17-18)

### 1.2.5 We are Warned not to Defile God’s Temple

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

Once again, we are reminded that Christians are God’s possession and, in fact, they are the dwelling place of His Spirit. For this reason, we must consider our bodies something sacred - not something to be trashed or abused. The word defile means to “pollute, foul or corrupt.”

## 2 Organisational Scope

This policy is School-wide.

## 3 Definitions

For purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:

Drugs: Illegal substances (eg marijuana, ‘ice’, ‘ecstasy’ etc) or prescription drugs obtained without a prescription or misused.

## 4 Policy

The School is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all students so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. All students should be developing a healthy, God-honouring lifestyle, thus making the use of drugs of any kind unacceptable in the School community and outside of it. If the use of drugs does occur, students should be able to communicate with appropriate adults knowing that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a covenant community, meaning that we look out for the welfare of all.

We live in an age when the misuse of drugs is on the increase nationally and locally and the School has a responsibility to ensure that parents can feel secure in knowing that, during School hours, their child(ren) is working in a ‘drugs free’ environment. As a covenant community the School also has a responsibility to report to parents and relevant authorities any knowledge of drugs/drug activity arranged/talked about at the School that may take place in a non-School setting.

For this reason, the School Council supports very firm disciplinary action concerning the misuse of drugs. The following states the School’s present position on the matter of illegal substances.

In proven cases of possession, use of (however administered e.g. sniffing, injection, etc.), or passing on of illegal drugs or prescription drugs obtained without a prescription on School

premises, during School activities, or on the way to or from School, the student(s) involved will normally be permanently excluded (expelled) from the School forthwith and, if appropriate, Police will be advised.

We will immediately inform parents if we have any suspicions that their son or daughter is using drugs in the School, or on the way to and from the School.

In cases of tobacco and/or alcohol ('legal' drugs) use on School premises, during School activities, or on the way to or from the School, students will be externally suspended for a first offence. A second such offence will be treated in the same way as for illegal drugs.

To complement this clear deterrent, the School wishes to support parental responsibility in this area by using the curriculum to educate students and to help them develop the skills necessary to resist pressure to become involved in drug taking.

Drugs Education will be addressed as and when appropriate as part of the Sport, Health and Physical Education curriculum and also the Biblical Studies curriculum within the School.

From time to time the School might consider it appropriate to invite speakers and organisations who espouse a biblical world and life view to visit the School to address the students on drugs and related issues.

As with all policies, the area of Drugs Education within the School will be reviewed on a regular basis between registration reviews.

Note: Age limitations on the purchase of tobacco and alcohol make these drugs illegal for all of our students in all settings.

#### **4.1 Outcomes**

1. Reconciliation of the students through their parents in accord with Matthew 18.
2. Genuine repentance and seeking of forgiveness. Other consequences may still occur.
3. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion may be the consequence.

## **5 Legislative Compliance**

Though the School is required to manage its policy documentation within a legislative framework; there is no specific legislation directing this policy.

## **6 References**

National Safe Schools Framework [link](#)  
Duty of Care Policy [link](#)

## **7 Approval Agency**

Principal.

**8 Policy Sponsor**

Principal

**9 Contact Person**

The following person may be approached on a routine basis in relation to this policy:

The Principal

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