



## Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Policy

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| <b>Purpose:</b>       | The purpose of this policy is to prevent the possession, use, sale and distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs and related implements (cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vapes) by students whilst attending school or at a school-related activity  |  |
| <b>Scope:</b>         | All students, including those aged 18 years and over, staff, and parents  |  |
| <b>Status:</b>        | Approved  | <b>Supersedes:</b> No Previous           |
| <b>Authorised by:</b> | Board of Directors  | <b>Date of Authorisation:</b> 1 Feb 2022 |
| <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>• My Independent School Enrolment Contract</li> <li>• My Independent School Principles</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Review Date:</b>   | Every 2 years   | <b>Next Review Date:</b> 1 Feb 2024      |
| <b>Policy Owner:</b>  | Governing Body  |  |

## **Policy Statement**

My Independent School has a zero-tolerance policy towards student use, possession, sale and distribution of alcohol, illicit drugs (including e-cigarettes or similar devices) and related instruments whilst attending school or at school-related activities.

## **Action plan**

If My Independent School becomes aware or reasonably suspects, that a student has alcohol, 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
- Consult with the student/s
- Contact the student/s' parents if under 18
- Offer appropriate support to any student involved in the matter
- Bring it back to the school tribal community if appropriate
- Implement any other consequences or actions that might be appropriate in the circumstances, including possible disciplinary action, or involving police.
- Ask the student to leave premises for a time out for self-reflection time.
- 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**

My Independent School will report relevant matters to the Police when it is in the student's or school community's best interests.

## **Searching and confiscating property**

In accordance with My Independent School Enrolment Contract 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. The Principal will determine when this is necessary and should only be used in a last resort if serious harm to a student/s is determined.

When items have been confiscated, My Independent School will take the following action:

1. If the police have been involved in the matter, give it to them; or
2. If the substance is inherently dangerous, destroy it; or
3. If possession of the substance is illegal, destroy it; or

4. If none of the three scenarios above applies, give it to the student or to those who are responsible for the student

Searching and confiscating property or substances is a very serious scenario this will only happen with permission from Principal in situation where it is determined that a student/s is at risk of serious immediate harm.

### **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, e-cigarettes, dexamphetamine used for non-medical purposes and inhalants such as spray paints.

### **Responsibilities**

#### **School Responsibilities**

My Independent School 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, 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 My Independent School 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, illicit drugs or related implements at the school or at school-related events, in accordance with this Policy and other relevant My Independent School policies

#### **Parent Responsibilities**

At My Independent School 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, illicit drugs or related implements at the school or at school-related events

### **Student Responsibilities**

At My Independent School students have a responsibility to:

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

| <b>Policy Review and Version Tracking</b> |                            |                           |                  |                     |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Version</b>                            | <b>Date to be Reviewed</b> | <b>Person Responsible</b> | <b>Comments</b>  | <b>Date Adopted</b> |
| 1   | 01.02.24                   | Principal                 | Policy developed | 01.02.22            |