

# ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND ILLICIT DRUGS POLICY

	Fairholme College Toowoomba ABN 16 917 099 053 CRICOS Provider Code 00651J		
<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>	Applies to all students, including those aged 18 years and over, staff, and parents at Fairholme College		
<b>References</b>	Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 (Qld) Liquor Act 1992 (Qld) Australian Privacy Principles Child Protection Policy Staff Code of Conduct Community Code of Conduct Workplace Health & Safety Policy		
<b>Policy Type</b>	Public		
<b>Policy Location</b>	College Website		
<b>Version</b>	5.1		
<b>Supersedes</b>	All previous versions of the Drug and Alcohol Policy		
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Leadership Team		
<b>Review Date</b>	25 May 2016	<b>Next Review Date</b>	25 May 2018
<b>Authorised By</b>	CARM	<i>Linda Evans</i> Linda Evans	

## Foreword

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

## Definition

**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.

## Policy

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

- Ensure 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 College owes to other students

## Reporting to Police

Fairholme College will report relevant matters to the Police when it is in the student's or College 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

When it is believed to be appropriate in the circumstances, the College may request a student's permission to search the student's property, including lockers and bags. When items have been confiscated, the College may take one of 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 those who are responsible for the student.

## Responsibilities

### School Responsibilities

Fairholme College acknowledges its responsibility to:

- Develop and implement this Policy to support the safety of students
- Communicate this Policy to students, parents and employees
- 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 College owes to other students
- Encourage students, parents and employees to contribute to a healthy College culture

### Employee Responsibilities

At Fairholme College, employees have a responsibility to:

- Uphold the Staff Code of Conduct 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 College or at College-related events, in accordance with this Policy and other relevant Fairholme College policies

### Parent Responsibilities

At Fairholme 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 on campus or at College-related events

### Student Responsibilities

At Fairholme College, students have a responsibility to:

- Not use, possess, sell or distribute alcohol, tobacco or illicit drugs or related instruments whilst on campus or attending College-related activities

### Smoke Free Environment

Smoking is not permitted on the College Campus. The policy in relation to smoking does not apply to a building occupied by a staff member as a private residence but does apply to a staff residence in the Boarding House.

### Implementation

The College seeks to educate its students in the value of a healthy lifestyle, and in the threat posed by drug and alcohol abuse to this healthy lifestyle. Education at the various stages of schooling takes account of the ready availability of illicit drugs and alcohol and the reality of experimentation with potentially harmful substances by teenagers.

### **Compliance and Monitoring**

In dealing with instances of drug or alcohol use on campus, at College functions, or at student activities associated with the school, the Principal and staff employ a restorative approach where appropriate. The outcome for any specific incident will consider the unique circumstances and be managed accordingly. Consequently, there may be a range of outcomes, which could include the cessation of a student's enrolment.

Once the College has established that there is a concern within the terms of this policy, the Principal or Principal's delegate will inform the parents of the student/s concerned in a timely fashion.

The College will keep records of any incidents involving alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs and all action taken.