

## **POLICY ON SUBSTANCE MISUSE BY STUDENTS**

### **POLICY**

The College is committed to the prevention of illegal activities and the harmful consequences associated with substance misuse. Such misuse is incompatible with the College philosophy of consideration of self and others, its learning environment, its role in the community and duty of care towards its students, and can seriously damage a person's physical health and mental well being.

### **Definition**

This policy refers to the use of alcohol and drugs and other substances, both legal and illegal, when used for the purpose of intoxication, pleasure or general misuse.

### **Context**

It is the view of the College that the use and misuse of illegal drugs and alcohol by those studying at the College can cause problems for the individual, those immediately concerned with them, and the broader community of which the College is a part. Nonetheless in recognition of the use of drugs in the broader community, the College is committed to ensuring that the educational environment will be one which manages drug issues through active education, awareness of local drugs/alcohol organisations, prevention and efficient management.

This policy covers students in such settings as College premises and work placements or when they are otherwise engaged in College-related activities. In practice the misuse of alcohol and drugs crosses into the management of discipline and this policy should be read in the context of the student disciplinary procedure. Such behaviour may be handled by such processes as recommended in that policy. The relevant agencies, including the police, will be contacted if a student is caught in an illegal act.

### **Possible Incidents**

Incidents involving substance use and misuse can occur in some of the following ways:

- a) incidents of inappropriate intoxication and intoxicated behaviour within class or College premises/work placements
- b) aggressive, threatening or insulting behaviour resulting from substance abuse, especially if causing a disturbance in class/public areas or a health and safety risk (e.g. if operating machinery/tools). Such behaviour is unacceptable
- c) the selling or supply or harassment to buy drugs, by students or others wherever College related activities take place.
- d) possession of illegal substances by students or others wherever College related activities take place.

### **Promotion of Responsible Attitudes towards Alcohol and Drugs**

The College will make every effort to promote to students, staff and the broader community that it takes a responsible attitude towards substance misuse. This will/could involve the following:

- a) the availability of this policy or the principles of it to students and staff

- b) where appropriate, the inclusion of sessions on substance misuse within the group tutorial programme, to raise awareness of the harms associated with substance misuse and how to use safely
- c) the accessibility of counselling or advisory services in relation to substances whether on site or by referral
- d) the display in common areas of information about substances and helping agencies
- e) good working relationships with helping agencies and the promotion of their work from time to time within the College

**Related Document**

Student Disciplinary Procedure

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