



RIVERMOUNT COLLEGE

Realising the Potential Within

7.07.01 ALCOHOL, SMOKING PRODUCTS AND ILLICIT DRUGS POLICY

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to prevent the possession, use, sale and distribution of alcohol, smoking products and illicit drugs at the College (or a College activity) and outline the pursuant actions should these occur.

The policy also addresses the limited use of alcohol at College functions.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all students enrolled at the College (including those aged 18 and over) and applies equally to staff when at the College or College activities.

RESPONSIBILITY

Principal reporting to the Board of Directors

LEGISLATION AND REFERENCES

[Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 \(Qld\)](#)

[Liquor Act 1992 \(Qld\)](#)

[Australian Privacy Principles](#)

[Rivermount College Code of Behaviour](#)

[Rivermount College Confiscation of Student Property Policy](#)

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POLICY STATEMENT

Rivermount College has a zero tolerance policy towards student use, possession, sale and distribution of alcohol, smoking products, illicit drugs and related implements (e.g. vaping, chroming, etc) whilst attending school, school related activities or whilst in College uniform.

Principles

- Health and safety legislation places a duty of care on the College to provide a safe working environment.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere at the College or at school functions and activities. This applies to everyone including staff, visitors and contractors. **The prohibition on smoking includes the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) and applies whether or not the e-cigarette contains nicotine.**
- The abuse of glue, solvents and other inhalers will be treated in the same way as smoking products.
- The use of alcohol at the College is restricted to approved functions where the Principal has given prior approval.
 - At College functions where alcohol is served, it is the responsibility of accompanying parents and the College to see that the College policy and the law are observed.
- Staff at College camps and excursions are not permitted to smoke or drink alcohol.
- It is illegal to supply cigarettes, e-cigarettes or alcohol to children under 18 years of age.
- It is illegal for persons under the age of 18 to purchase cigarettes, e-cigarettes and alcohol.
- There are clear legal sanctions governing the sale to and use of alcohol and cigarettes by minors. These legal sanctions apply at the College as in the rest of the community.

Use of Illicit Drugs

Use of illicit drugs at the College or at a school-related activity is strictly prohibited. The College will contact the Police should this occur.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Rivermount College acknowledges its responsibility to:

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

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College Employees have a responsibility to:

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

Parent Responsibilities

- 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, smoking products or illicit drugs or related implements at the College or at school-related events.

Student Responsibilities

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

ACTION PLAN

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

- Ensure the safety of those involved. Isolate student/s as much as possible from other students involved and from the general student population.
- Confiscate the substance and/or implement if appropriate.
- Interview the student:
 - Senior staff with delegated responsibility to conduct an investigation should do so with another member of staff present at the interview/s. Accurate record taking is crucial. This needs to be done as soon as possible.
- Inform the parents of the student(s) concerned immediately.
- Call the Police if appropriate – they have the authority to search students and their property.
- Implement any other consequences or actions that might be appropriate in the circumstances, including possible disciplinary action.
- Inform staff as required, provided in so doing that there is no breach of the *Privacy Act*.
- It may be necessary to inform the community through the newsletter; this decision to be taken by the Principal in consultation with the Board Chairman.

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Reporting to Police

The 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

In accordance with the *Confiscation of Student Property Policy*, the College will search a student's property, including lockers and bags, and may confiscate banned items, when it believes it is appropriate in the circumstances.

IMPLEMENTATION

The College shall take reasonable steps to implement this policy including the clear support and promotion of these terms to all students, staff and visitors via:

- Signage at the College Gates
- Annual WHS Training for all staff
- Staff Handbook
- Annual College Induction for all other workers (relief staff, tutors, contractors, coaches, volunteers)
- Contract of Employment
- Student Handbook and intranet portals
- Student Code of Behaviour

COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING

Breaches of this policy are dealt with as part of the Behaviour Management Guidelines and the Staff Code of Conduct. Incidences will be reported to the College Executive Management Committee.

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