Toowoomba SHS: Alcohol And Drug Policy

Toowoomba State High School views the issue of alcohol and drug dependency very seriously. The use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs is a source of concern and debate in general Australian society and within the school community. The use of drugs in school is usually a result of a combination of influences that this policy will address with an emphasis on education and harm minimisation.

We attempt to provide students with accurate information about this topic. We also try to arrange appropriate guidance and help for students who may have a concern in this area.

AIMS
This policy aims to:

1. Promote and maintain a health-promoting school environment in which the health, welfare and safety of all school community members are paramount.
2. Outline the role of Toowoomba State High School in the prevention of drug related problems.
3. Document the school’s position on, and procedures for, dealing with drug related incidents and problems.

Preventative Action
At Toowoomba State High School our approach to reducing drugs and alcohol is through harm minimisation. We achieve this through a wide range of Curriculum and Pastoral Care programs.

These include:
- Year 12 Hospital visits
- Schoolies Week Preparation
- Sexual Health Seminars
- Curriculum Focuses
- Driver Education and Driving Safety Programs
- Professional Development for Staff

Management
Possession, supply or use of drugs/cigarettes/alcohol while at school or in school uniform or at school related events would be classified as serious offences.

POLICY: DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE AT SCHOOL
Toowoomba State High School forbids students (of whatever age) whilst on school premises, at any school function, school excursion or school camp to:

- Smoke and/or possess tobacco products.
- Consume and/or possess alcohol or to be under the influence of alcohol.
- Deliberately inhale volatile substances (solvents) or be affected by such substances.
- Possess and/or use pharmaceutical drugs for non-medical purposes or be affected by such use.
- Possess and/or use illegal drugs or be under the influence of such drugs.
- Possess and/or use drug related equipment such as syringes, bongs or pipes (except in the case of lawful medical use).
- Possess materials that promote the gratuitous use of drugs.
School staff should administer prescribed medication where there is an agreement between staff, caregivers and the Principal and where written instructions for the dispensing of the drug have been provided. If a student is required to carry and self-administer prescribed medicine while at school, the caregiver must advise the relevant Deputy Principal of all relevant details. For short term conditions where analgesics are administered by the student, notification of self-medication by the student is not required.

All school premises are non-smoking areas in accordance with Queensland Department of Education Administrative Circular No. 214 and the revised Smoking Policy of 2017.

Consequences for drug and alcohol related incidents:

The following suggested consequences should be considered in the context of the student’s age, life and family situation, mental and emotional health, intellectual ability and the degree to which they have been in control of their actions and decisions. Consideration must also be taken of their past behavioural record and their response to earlier intervention strategies.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Consequence</th>
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| 1 Knowledge of drug-related activities at school not communicated to teachers or administration. | • Counselling  
• Caregivers notified |
| 2 Requesting supply of an illicit substance (including tobacco) from another student on school premises. Request not fulfilled. | • Counselling  
• Caregivers notified  
• Possible Suspension |
| 3 Involvement via proximity to an activity involving illicit substances (including tobacco or being in the presence of others using or supplying illicit substances (including tobacco). | • Counselling by administration  
• Caregivers notified  
• Detention  
• Possible Suspension  
• Possible withdrawal from non-class activities |
| 4 Smoking tobacco or possessing tobacco on school premises, at a school function or while in school uniform. | • Counselling by administration and Health Nurse  
• Caregivers notified  
• Health warning  
• Detentions  
• Possible Suspension  
• Possible withdrawal from non-class activities |
| 5 Using alcohol on school premises or at a school function or coming intoxicated onto school premises or to a school function | • Health and illegality warnings  
• Caregivers notified  
• Suspension or Exclusion |
| 6 Supplying alcohol on school premises or at a school function. | • Health and illegality warnings  
• Caregivers notified  
• Police notified  
• Suspension or exclusion  
• Withdrawal from non-class activities |
| 7 Possession or use of an illicit substance on school premises or at a school function. | • Health and illegality warnings  
• Caregivers notified  
• Police notified  
• Suspension or exclusion  
• Withdrawal from non-class activities |
| 8 Sale or supply of illicit substances on school premises or at a school function | • Health and illegality warnings  
• Caregivers notified  
• Police notified  
• Exclusion |
Police involvement in drug incidents

Requirement for police involvement in drug incidents

(Advice provided by Queensland Police Service, Alcohol and Drug Coordination Unit)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of drug related incident at school</th>
<th>Must inform police?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A substance believed to be an illicit drug is found.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Student admits to drug use at school but no substance is found.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>3. There is reason to believe (reliable witness) that a student has an illicit drug in their possession or in their bag or locker.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>4. A student is seen flushing what is thought (or a student or teacher thinks) to be a drug down a toilet, no substance is obtained.</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>5. A drug use implement is found, and no substance.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>6. A student admits to using illicit substance on a Saturday night at an activity unrelated to the school.</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>7. A student is reported to be using a drug by another student but no evidence is presented.</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Reasonable evidence is presented that a student is selling drugs to other students.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</table>

Responses indicated above are in line with police procedures and comply with relevant laws. They are only a guide and each situation needs to be assessed on a case by case basis. Even when not mandatory it may be desirable to involve police, for example a Juvenile Aid Bureau officer, in a counselling situation with the student/s and caregivers.