



RIVERMOUNT COLLEGE

Realising the Potential Within

7.06.01 ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SMOKING POLICY

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to outline how Rivermount College manages students' use, possession or supply of *Banned Items and Substances* at the College, College-related activities or whilst in College uniform.

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

Therapeutic Good Act 1989 (Cth)

Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 (Qld)

Tobacco and other Smoking Products Amendment Act 2023

Liquor Act 1992 (Qld)

Australian Privacy Principles

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Rivermount College Code of Behaviour

Rivermount College Confiscation of Student Property Policy

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POLICY STATEMENT

Rivermount College is committed to a safe, supportive and drug-free environment and the health of all College community members. The College is also committed to ensuring students are educated on the impacts of substance misuse.

Banned Items and Substances (refer to the Definitions in section below)

Rivermount College prohibits all students from possessing, using or supplying any of the following items or substances at the College, College-related activities or whilst in College uniform:

- Dangerous Drugs
- Illicit Nicotine Products, including vaping goods, smoking products and tobacco products
- Alcohol
- Volatile Substances/Solvents used as an inhalant (e.g. aerosol paint)
- All other Unlawful Items and Substances.

Principles

- Health and safety legislation places a duty of care on the College to provide a safe working environment.
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere at the College (including College carparks) or at school functions and activities. This applies to everyone including staff, visitors and contractors. The prohibition on smoking and vaping applies whether or not the vape or 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 possess or use any Banned Item or Substance.
- It is illegal to supply cigarettes, vapes or alcohol to children under 18 years of age.
- It is illegal for persons under the age of 18 to purchase cigarettes, vapes and alcohol.
- There are clear legal sanctions governing the sale to and use of alcohol, vapes and cigarettes by minors. These legal sanctions apply at the College as in the rest of the community.

DEFINITIONS

Alcohol means liquor as defined in the Liquor Act 1992 (Qld)¹. It is illegal to supply anyone under 18 with alcohol, except in certain circumstances in private places².

Banned Items and Substances are those included by the school in the list of 'Banned Items and Substances' in the above Policy Statement.

¹ Liquor Act 1992 (Qld), s4B

² Liquor Act 1992 (Qld), s156A

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Dangerous Drugs are things stated in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of the *Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987 (Qld)* and other things prescribed in Section 4: Definition of 'dangerous drugs' in the *Drugs Misuse Act 1986 (Qld)*. For example, amphetamine, cocaine, heroin, LSD (acid), MDMA (ecstasy), cannabis, methadone, opium, and benzodiazepines (e.g. Valium and Serepax). Under the *Drugs Misuse Act 1986 (Qld)* possessing and supplying others with dangerous drugs is a criminal offence.

Illicit Nicotine Product means vaping goods or another product containing nicotine or another substance detrimental to health prescribed by regulation³. The supply of illicit nicotine products by adults to children under 18 years is an offence in Qld⁴.

Smoke means to smoke, hold or otherwise have control over a smoking product when it is ignited. For a vaping device, it means to inhale through the device⁵.

Smoking Products are tobacco products, herbal cigarettes or loose smoking blends⁶.

Smoke-free Zones are areas defined under legislation as 'school facilities', being land on which non-State schools⁷ provide primary, secondary or special education or other educational instruction or activities (e.g. sporting activities on sporting grounds). The smoke-free zone also includes a buffer zone around the perimeter of the school facility that extends for five metres beyond the facility's land boundary. The zone also includes land on which a carpark is located, if the carpark is adjacent to a school facility and provided for the exclusive use of the school community.

It is an offence for a person (including students) to smoke tobacco products or vapes in a smoke-free zone in Queensland⁸. The offence does not apply to persons in any residential or business premises that are within the buffer zone or that share a boundary with school facility land, or persons travelling through the buffer zone in a motor vehicle.

Tobacco Products are tobacco prepared for consumption or something containing tobacco for consumption and includes a cigarette, cigar and loose tobacco but does not include a smokeless tobacco product or vaping goods⁹.

Unlawful Items and Substances include dangerous drugs or any other items and substances that are unlawful for a student to possess, use or supply in Queensland.

Vaping Goods are a vaping substance, vaping accessory, vaping device or goods presented to be of this type or otherwise prescribed in regulation¹⁰.

³ Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1988 (Qld), Schedule 1 Dictionary

⁴ Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1988 (Qld), s161C

⁵ Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1988 (Qld), Schedule 1 Dictionary

⁶ Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1988 (Qld), Schedule 1 Dictionary

⁷ Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017, s6

⁸ Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1988 (Qld), s128

⁹ Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1988 (Qld), Schedule 1 Dictionary

¹⁰ Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1988 (Qld), s7

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Vaping Substance, Vaping Accessory and Vaping Device are vaping-related terms that are further defined in the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998*¹¹

Volatile Substances/Solvents is where the product is inhaled and used as a recreational drug.

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 College or at College-related activities.
- Encourage students, parents and employees to contribute to a healthy school culture.
- Implement appropriate curriculum-related drug education for students.
- Provide appropriate support services to students or contact with health service providers.

College employees have a responsibility to:

- Ensure the safety of students.
- Contribute to a healthy school culture.
- Adhere to this policy and other relevant College policies, procedures and rules in responding to any known or alleged breaches of this policy.

Parents/guardians have a responsibility to:

- Contribute to a healthy school culture.
- Read and understand, and ensure their child reads and understands this policy.
- Support their child in not breaching this policy and assist them to understand that any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action.

Students have a responsibility to:

- Contribute to a healthy school culture.
- Read and understand this policy if they have the capacity to do so, otherwise a parent/guardian should read and understand this policy on behalf of the student.
- Not breach this policy, which includes, among other things included in this policy:
 - Not possessing, using or supplying any banned items or substances at the College or College-related activities.
 - Not smoking tobacco products or vapes in the school facility and the buffer zone, defined as a 'smoke-free zone', at any time including during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays. It is an offence for a person (including students) to smoke tobacco products or vapes in a smoke-free zone in Queensland¹².

¹¹ Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1988 (Qld), s7

¹² Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1988 (Qld), s128

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IMPLEMENTATION

If the College becomes aware, or reasonably suspects, that a student has breached this policy, 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.
- 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.
- Confiscate the substance and/or implement if appropriate in accordance with the College's *Confiscation of Student Property Policy*.
 - The College may search a student's property, including lockers and bags, and may confiscate banned items, when it believes it is appropriate in the circumstances.
- Report to the Police if appropriate.
 - 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 or incorrigibly taking drugs in the school.
- Offer appropriate support to any student involved in the matter.
- Inform the parents of the student(s) concerned immediately.
- 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 College community through the newsletter; this decision to be taken by the Principal in consultation with the Board Chairman.
- Keep accurate records of the events and actions taken.

AWARENESS AND TRAINING

The College shall take reasonable steps to promote this policy to all students, staff and visitors via:

- Publication on the College website
- Signage at the College Gates
- Annual WHS Training for all staff and review of the Staff Handbook
- Annual College Induction for all other workers (relief staff, tutors, contractors, coaches, volunteers)
- Student Enrolment Contract, 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 are to be reported to the College Executive Management Committee.

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