
Alcohol, Smoking Products and Illicit Drug Policy



Reviewed February 2026



Introduction

In working to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our students, St Joseph's Nudgee College faces many challenges. Simultaneously, all students in our school have the right to attend school where their safety and welfare is positively promoted.

The aim of this policy is to:

- provide guiding principles and procedures to inform the actions taken by St Joseph's Nudgee College in relation to:
 - the possession, use, sale and distribution of alcohol, vaping, nicotine and smoking products and illicit drugs
 - responding to alcohol, vaping, nicotine and smoking products or drug related incidents
 - supporting students involved in alcohol, nicotine and smoking products or illicit drug use
- clarify expected behaviours and roles of each member of the school community
- detail St Joseph's Nudgee College's commitment to providing evidence-informed alcohol, nicotine and smoking products and illicit drug education.

Scope

This policy applies to all students enrolled at St Joseph's Nudgee College, including those aged 18 years and over and applies to the conduct that occurs in any NC related context, including during school hours, within and outside of the College, and outside school hours where there is a relevant connection with a student's enrolment at NC. St Joseph's Nudgee College employees, volunteers and contractors are bound by the requirements of the EREA Code of Conduct and the EREA Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy.

References

- Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)
- Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 (Qld)
- Child Safe Organisations Act 2024 (Qld)
- Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 (Qld)
- Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld)
- Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 (Qld)
- EREA Code of Conduct 2023 (EREA)
- Liquor Act 1992 (Qld)
- Privacy Act 1988
- NC Complaints Policy and Procedure



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- NC Privacy Policy
 - NC Positive Behaviour Support Policy
 - NC Student Code of Conduct
 - NC Confiscation Policy
 - NC Room Search Policy
 - NC Student Enrolment Contract

1.0 Policy Statement

St Joseph's Nudgee College takes a strong, active stance against student involvement with alcohol, vaping and smoking or nicotine products and/or illicit drugs. This policy is based on principles of harm minimisation and emanates from our objective to have students feel **respected and connected** in all areas of their lives. It aims to achieve a balance between the individual rights of the students and the welfare of the St Joseph's Nudgee College community.

2.0 Policy Objectives

- To best respond to the interests of the student concerned, while respecting the duty of care to, and safety of other students, employees and members of the NC community;
- To set in place clear guidelines that outline roles and responsibilities for those dealing with issues related to alcohol/vaping/nicotine and smoking products/drug use;
- To develop and document a comprehensive drug policy that addresses both prevention and intervention in order to respond to such incidents in a planned and coordinated manner.

3.0 Responsibilities

3.1 College Responsibilities

St Joseph's Nudgee College acknowledges its responsibility to:

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



3.2 Student Responsibilities

All students at St Joseph's Nudgee College have a responsibility to always exhibit safe behaviour around the College. This responsibility prohibits students from:

- possessing, using, consuming or distributing alcohol, vaping, nicotine and smoking products, illicit drugs and/or drug related equipment or paraphernalia (except in the case of lawful medical use).
- deliberately inhaling volatile substances (solvents);
- possessing, using or distributing prescribed drugs for non-medical purposes;

3.3 Employee Responsibilities

At St Joseph's Nudgee College, employees have a responsibility to:

- Uphold the school's Policy on this issue.
- Prevent, and appropriately respond to any instances of use, possession, sale or distribution of alcohol, vaping and smoking products or illicit drugs and/or related equipment or paraphernalia at the school or at school-related events, in accordance with this Policy and other relevant NC and/or EREA policies.

3.4 Parent Responsibilities

At St Joseph's Nudgee College, parents have a responsibility to:

- Read and understand, and ensure their son reads and understands this Policy.
- Ensure, as far as possible, that their son does not use, possess, sell or distribute alcohol, vaping, nicotine and smoking products, illicit drugs or related equipment or paraphernalia at the College or at school-related events.

4.0 Process

If St Joseph's Nudgee College becomes aware of, or reasonably suspects that a student

- is or has been in possession of,
- is consuming or has consumed,
- is selling or has sold,
- is distributing or has distributed,



any alcohol, vaping, nicotine and smoking products, illicit drugs or related equipment or paraphernalia at the school or at a school related activity, the College will take the following action, as appropriate in the circumstances.

- Ensure the safety of the student/s concerned. If, in the reasonable opinion of the relevant employee, a student's health may be affected by the drug or alcohol in question, medical treatment should be sought for the student/s.
- The House Dean/HoBH, Director of Students/Boarding, Dean of Students/Boarding, Deputy Principal or Principal or any other staff member as instructed by the Principal may conduct a search of the student's locker, bag and personal effects and confiscate the substance and/or paraphernalia if appropriate (In accordance with the [Confiscation Policy](#) or [Room Search Policy](#)).
- When items have been confiscated, the substance or items should be made secure in a place restricted from general access such as a safe or lockable filing cabinet. The substance or items should be labelled with the date, time and location where they were found and the names of all staff who had contact with them.
- Refer the incident, the student/s and the substance immediately to the Director of Students/Boarding, Dean of Students/Boarding
- Interview the student/s.
- Contact the student/s' parents.
- Communicate the appropriate action with parents/guardians (This will be in accordance with the College's Positive Behaviour Support Policy and Student Code of Conduct).
- Report the matter to the police if appropriate.
- Offer appropriate support to any student involved in the matter (including College Counselling services).
- Implement any other consequences or actions that might be appropriate in the circumstances, as outlined under the NC Positive Behaviour Support Policy.
- Keep accurate records of the incident and all action taken.

5.0 College Response

The use or supply of illegal drugs or toxic inhalants is considered a serious breach of College rules.

- *Any form of illegal drug or toxic inhalant either supplied by, or in possession of, or being taken by a student may lead to immediate exclusion from the College.*

The use or supply of smoking/vaping/nicotine products is considered a serious breach of College rules.

- *Any form of smoking, nicotine or vape product either supplied by, or in possession of, or being taken by a student may lead to immediate suspension from the College. Along with potential review of enrolment status.*



The use or supply of alcohol is considered a serious breach of College rules.

- Students consuming, supplying or in possession of alcohol either at school or any College related event *may lead to immediate suspension* from the College. *Along with potential review of enrolment status.*

6.0 Reporting of the Incident

Where appropriate, St Joseph's Nudgee College will report to the relevant authorities any matter relating to alcohol, vaping and smoking products or illicit drugs. In the case of the latter, the school may inform local police when an illicit substance is found by school staff and arrange for police to collect the substance as soon as possible and take a report of the infringement.

7.0 Searching and Confiscating Property

The College may search a student's locker, bag and property where it is reasonable to do so or as part of a general random search of a place where the College conducts its activities and may confiscate banned and/or illegal items.

NB: The College will not provide any compensation for confiscated property

More details within [Confiscation Policy](#)

8.0 Student Formation Program

St Joseph's Nudgee College covers drug education in the Student Formation Program, as well as certain units within the Health & Physical Education curriculum. It is underpinned by our approach to authentic pastoral care and the wellbeing of students. Our commitment is to take a whole- of-school approach to our boys' wellbeing. Drug education has three interrelated components:

1. Education
2. Referral and Counselling
3. Intervention

8.1 Education

The education component of the program has been framed within the wider context of encouraging and assisting students to adopt a healthy lifestyle. Since direct and indirect exposure to alcohol, vaping, nicotine and smoking products and drugs is inevitable in modern society, students will be provided with information, which is accurate and relevant, as well as the



personal skills to enable them to make responsible decisions about issues related to their health. It is the responsibility of all parents and staff of the College to treat the use of alcohol, vaping, nicotine and smoking products and illicit drugs as a serious problem and to support the College policy at all times.

8.2 Referral and Counselling

The pastoral care system which exists in the College provides a structure for referral and counselling. Specialist support for students, parents and staff is provided by the House Deans, Heads of Boarding House, Pastoral Care teachers and Student Counsellors.

8.3 Intervention

All staff have a legal and professional responsibility to respond to information about, and incidents involving students' use or possession of alcohol, vaping, nicotine and smoking products and/or illicit drugs on College property or at a College-related activity. St Joseph's Nudgee College may take action, under the NC Student Code of Conduct, against any individual when a breach of this policy is identified.



9.0 Policy Review

Reviewed by the Dean of Students (February, 2026). Ratified by the College Leadership Team.

Next review scheduled for January 2027.