

The Hazard - Alcohol - Student Use Of

Alcohol is a depressant drug that slows brain activity responses and impairs co-ordination. The consumption of alcohol by students increases the risk of injury to the students themselves and to others, as well as impairing the ability of students to respond appropriately in an emergency. The effects of alcohol can be magnified when consumed in conjunction with other substances, including prescription drugs.

Thomas Carr College's Policy

Thomas Carr College is committed to providing a safe environment for all our students, staff and visitors.

It is our policy that:

- The purchase, possession or consumption of alcohol by students is strictly prohibited on college premises, at functions, excursions, camps, when representing the college, when wearing college uniform and in transit to or from college;
- While on college property or representing the college in any way, students are not permitted to be under the influence of alcohol;
- All students will receive age appropriate health and alcohol education to enable and support them to make informed choices, and to minimise the harm associated with alcohol use; and
- Referrals to counselling and support groups will be provided to students with alcohol related problems.

Dealing with a Student affected by Alcohol

Where a student exhibits obvious signs of intoxication a staff member shall:

- Isolate the student from their peers in a calm and controlled manner (if possible);
- If this is not possible and an impaired student refuses to cooperate and/or becomes agitated, ensure that any other students within the immediate vicinity are removed from harm and attempt to calm the student until such time as other staff members are able to provide assistance;
- Ask the student to accompany them to the college administration office; and
- Contact the Principal or College Executive Group member to inform them of the situation.

The Principal or Principal's delegate shall then make an assessment of the student's condition and take appropriate action based on the facts. This may include contacting the student's parents/carers to inform them of the incident and requesting that they remove the student from the college grounds, and/or calling the police in the event that the student is acting in an aggressive or threatening manner.

Staff Responsibility

All staff are responsible to ensure that:

- They follow the guidelines set out in this policy when dealing with a student that they believe may be under the influence of alcohol;
- All reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety and welfare of students from both known and reasonably foreseeable alcohol related risks of harm and/or injury;
- The Principal or College Executive Group member are informed if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student is involved in alcohol related behavior; and
- Students are asked to display their possessions or contents of their bag and/or locker in the presence of another teacher, where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion that they have alcohol in their possession.

Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- Staff training;
- Student education via ongoing age appropriate alcohol education programs integrated into classroom learning;
- Development of alcohol safe culture by promoting student awareness in alcohol abuse;
- Effective communication procedures;
- Effective incident notification procedures;
- Effective record keeping procedures; and
- Initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

Related Policies

Alcohol (Service within the Premises) Policy
Drugs - Illicit (Student Use Of) Policy

Policy status: New

Key Stakeholders: College staff, students and parents

Endorsement Body: College Executive

Ratification Body: College Board Policy

Author: Core Wellbeing Team

Date of Approval: 2017

Date of Scheduled Review: 2020

The content of this policy can be changed at the College Board's discretion at any time without notification.