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Educating for life

Christian Brothers' College Boksburg

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POSITION STATEMENT

The College accepts and acknowledges that a wide variety of addictive or habit-forming substances are readily available throughout society, and that our children are, and will continue to be, regularly exposed to such substances through various channels.

Substance use is dangerous. In most cases it is also illegal. The College accepts that young people are particularly vulnerable to substance use and misuse and that this is directly detrimental to learners at all levels and in all ways (physical, mental, psychological, social, developmental, emotional and personal).

The Role of Parents and the College

The College accepts that it has a duty to equip young people with information and knowledge about drugs, alcohol and substance use generally, but insists that parents participate in a strong partnership bond with the College to minimize the potential harm to learners.

Parents have the responsibility of:

- limiting their children's exposure to places where drugs are known to be available
- guiding their children's choice of friends and companions to reduce the impact of potentially dangerous peer pressure
- equipping themselves with knowledge of substance use and misuse by reading documentation provided by the relevant authorities and by attending information sessions held by the College and the community
- by their actions and teachings showing that they do not condone the inappropriate use of alcohol and drugs.

The College has the responsibility to:

- through the Life Orientation lessons, present prevention and information sessions to all learners
- present prevention and information sessions for all parents
- make information and training available to educators
- provide counseling / referral to appropriate agencies for learners who require this.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this document, "at College" includes all of the following:

- on the College premises at any time
- participating in a College function in any place at any time
- in College uniform in a public place, whether on College business or not
- in any context in which the learner is clearly associated with the College.

Situations not mentioned above will be regarded as "outside College". In situations where a learner uses substances outside of College, but in such a manner as to bring the College into disrepute in any way, the College reserves the right to take action according to the rules of the College and the country. The overriding purpose of any action taken will be to ensure the health and safety of the learner.

For the purposes of this document, "drugs" refers to illegal mind-altering substances including, but not limited to cannabis, Tik (methamphetamine) Ecstasy, cocaine, heroin, speed, crack, LSD, Mandrax. "Alcohol" refers to all alcoholic beverages. "Tobacco" refers to legal substances which are usually smoked, including cigarettes, cigars and pipe tobacco. Abuse of over-the-counter and prescription drugs are also included in this policy.

"Excessive" use of alcohol or "abuse" of alcohol is taken to mean sufficient use to bring the person into a clearly visible (by behaviour, language, etc) state of intoxication.

"Dealing" refers to selling, swapping, exchanging, supplying, trading, distributing, etc.

POLICY

The possession of, use of or dealing in mind-altering or habit forming substances is forbidden at College. All matters contravening the South African law will be reported to the South African Police Services for appropriate criminal prosecution. The College also reserves the right to take action should the learner's substance use outside College influence his academic achievements, attendance, behaviour, etc.

Each case will be assessed and considered individually within the framework of the policy and procedures.

Every case will be dealt with confidentially within the College but parents/guardians will be informed and involved.

- In the event of information concerning alleged drug, alcohol or tobacco use by a learner outside the College, provided that the information is from a source which, in the opinion of the College, has some degree of credibility, the College will speak confidentially to the learner, pass on the information and will offer the learner the opportunity of discussing the matter with his parents before the College contacts them. Thereafter, the College will contact the parents and inform them of the details of the information. The matter will then be left in the hands of the parents. Counselling resources of the College will be made available to the family if required.
- In the event of the College obtaining solid evidence of the use of alcohol or tobacco outside College, the parents will be informed of the situation. The College may choose to speak to the learner first and give her the opportunity to talk to her parents before the College does. The College will offer their counseling resources to the learner and her family.
- If the College obtains solid or convincing evidence of the use of drugs outside College, the learner will be called in for a confidential meeting with the Headmaster and at least one senior or counselling staff member. The College will make available its guidance and counselling to the learner and family of the learner, including referral to outside agencies which may be in the best position to help.
- Possession and/or use of tobacco or alcohol at College or arriving at College under the influence of alcohol will result in the parents being called for a meeting with the Headmaster and the learner. The matter will be referred to the College Management disciplinary council who will hear the case according to the rules laid down in the Learners Code of Conduct. Disciplinary hearings (enquiries) may result in a request for suspension and/or a request for expulsion.
- Possession and/or use of drugs at College or arriving at College under the influence of drugs will result in the parents being called for a meeting with the Headmaster and at least one senior or counselling staff member. The South African Police will be called to the College to investigate the matter with the possibility of criminal prosecution. The matter will be referred to the College Management disciplinary council. Disciplinary hearings can result in suspension from College and/or a request for expulsion. The learner will have to participate in counselling, possibly by an outside agency. Parents will be liable for costs of counselling outside the College.
- If a learner is found in possession of drug-related paraphernalia at College the parents will be called to the College for a meeting with the Headmaster. The learner may be required to attend a disciplinary meeting or the case may be handed to the South African Police Services for their investigation and possible legal action.
- If a learner is caught assisting other learners in drug use on the College premises, his parents will be informed. The matter will be referred to the College Management disciplinary council who will hear the case. Disciplinary hearings can result in a request for suspension and/or a request for expulsion.
- If a learner sells drugs outside the College, and it comes to the attention of the College, the matter will be referred to the SAPS for investigation. If it is confirmed that the learner has been selling drugs, the learner will be required to

appear before the College Management disciplinary council. Learners will be referred to an appropriate outside agency for counseling (at parents' expense).

- If the learner deals in drugs at College, the South African Police will be called to the College to investigate and prosecute. The learner will have to attend a disciplinary hearing with the College Management which might result in expulsion.
- Where a staff member in authority reasonably suspects that a learner has a prohibited substance in his possession at College, a search may be carried out by an appointed staff member, in the presence of a senior staff member.

The policy of the College is that every parent and learner accepts that total prohibition in relation to tobacco, alcohol and drug substances is recommended as we believe that this is in the long-term interest of the children of our community. In the rare case of a learner who is found guilty of any offence being permitted to remain at Christian Brothers' College, the learner, assisted by his parents, will be required to sign a contract governing future behaviour at the College.

SUMMARY

SITUATION - COLLEGE'S RESPONSE

- **Dealing drugs at College** - SAPS and parents called to College. Matter handed to SAPS for investigation and prosecution. Matter referred to College Management for disciplinary action with possibility of expulsion. Counselling by outside agency required (parents' expense).
- **Dealing drugs outside College** - SAPS informed for investigation and criminal prosecution. Matter referred to the College disciplinary panel.
- **Possession of drugs or using drugs at College** - SAPS and parents called to College. Matter referred to College disciplinary panel with possibility of expulsion. Counselling, possibly by outside agency at parent's expense, required.
- **Assisting other learners to use drugs on College premises** - Parents informed. Matter referred to the College Management College disciplinary panel.
- **Using drugs outside College** - The learner, followed by parents, will be informed of the College's knowledge of the situation. Referral to various counselling services inside and outside (at parents' expense) the College. The learner's performance and behaviour at College will be closely monitored.
- **Possession of or using alcohol at College** - Parents called for a meeting with the Headmaster. Matter referred to the College disciplinary panel.
- **Arriving at College under the influence of alcohol** - Parents called for a meeting with the Headmaster. Matter referred to the College disciplinary panel.
- **Using alcohol outside College while under age** - Parents informed.
- **Possession of or using tobacco in College** - Parents informed. Matter referred to the College disciplinary panel.
- **Using tobacco outside College** - Parents informed.
- **Abuse of prescription or over-the – counter drugs inside or outside College** Parents informed. Mandatory counselling
- **Possession of drug-related paraphernalia at College** - Parents informed. Possible referral of case to College Management and/or SAPS.