

BORDER RIVERS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Cnr Gibson Street and Lilly Drive
Goondiwindi Qld 4390



Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Policy

Purpose:	The purpose of this policy is to outline how the college manages students' use, possession or supply of <i>Banned Items and Substances</i> at college and college-related activities, including processes for searching and removing property.	
Scope:	All students (including students aged 18 years and over)	
Status:	Approved	Supersedes: March 2024
Authorised by:	Principal	Date of Authorisation: October 2025
References:	• <u><i>Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (Cth)</i></u> • <u><i>Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 (Qld)</i></u> • <u><i>Liquor Act 1992 (Qld)</i></u> • <u><i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)</i></u> • Border Rivers Christian College Enrolment Contract • Border Rivers Christian College Behaviour Management Policy • Border Rivers Christian College Complaint Policy & Procedures	
Review Date:	Every two years	Next Review Date: March 2028
Policy Owner:	Principal	

Version History

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Policy Statement

Border Rivers Christian College is committed to a safe, supportive and drug-free environment and the health of all college community members. The Board and Principal of Border Rivers Christian College accept that there are physical, emotional and spiritual consequences to the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs and the use of vapes. Therefore, the prevailing value and resultant attitude of abstinence will be modelled, taught and reinforced within the College environment.

The Bible has warnings about the excessive consumption of alcohol, which in this day and age can be expanded to the abuse of nicotine and illicit drugs. Border Rivers Christian College believes that an important part of its curriculum is to warn students about the potential harm of such drug use. To that end, the combined efforts of the College community will be to point students towards abstinence as an element of their lifestyle, underpinned by the teaching of the Bible. *Ephesians 5:18 "Stop getting drunk with wine, which leads to wild living, but keep on being filled with the Spirit."*

Ensuring Respect and Inclusion for All

Cultural safety is a vital consideration in the development and implementation of Border Rivers Christian College's Drug, Alcohol & Smoking Policy. It recognises and respects the diverse backgrounds, traditions, and values of students and their families, ensuring that the policy does not inadvertently marginalise, stigmatise, or disadvantage any cultural group. A culturally safe policy is sensitive to varying beliefs and experiences regarding substance use, providing clear guidelines and support while fostering an environment of empathy and understanding. This approach encourages open dialogue and respects confidentiality. Through culturally safe practices, Border Rivers Christian College can better support student wellbeing, promote respectful relationships, and create a welcoming space where all individuals feel valued and empowered to make healthy choices.

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 college in the list of *Banned Items and Substances* in the above Policy Statement.
- **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.
- **College Community** means the students, teachers, parents of students, visitors and other employees of the college.

¹ *Liquor Act 1992* (Qld), s4B

² *Liquor Act 1992* (Qld), s156A

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

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

- **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 'college 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 college 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 college facility and provided for the exclusive use of the college 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 college 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.
- **Vaping Substance, Vaping Accessory and Vaping Device** are vaping-related terms that are further defined in the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998¹¹

Banned Items and Substances

Border Rivers Christian College prohibits all students from possessing, using or supplying any of the following items or substances at college or college-related activities:

- Dangerous drugs
- Illicit nicotine products, including vaping goods, smoking products and tobacco products
- Alcohol
- *Dangerous Inhalants*
- All other Unlawful Items and Substances.

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

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

Responsibilities

College Responsibilities

Border Rivers Christian College acknowledges its responsibility to:

- Develop and implement this policy to help ensure the safety of students.
- Communicate this policy to students, parents/carers and staff.
- Keep appropriate records, monitor, and report on any issues related to the use, possession or supply of any banned items or substances at college or college-related activities.
- Encourage students, parents/carers and staff to support this policy and contribute to a healthy college culture.
- Implement appropriate curriculum-related drug education for students.
- Provide appropriate support services to students or contact with health service providers.

Staff Responsibilities

At Border Rivers Christian College, staff have a responsibility to:

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

Parent/Carer Responsibilities

Parents/carers of students at Border Rivers Christian College have a responsibility to:

- Contribute to a healthy college culture.
- Read and understand this policy, 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.

Student Responsibilities

At Border Rivers Christian College, students have a responsibility to:

- Contribute to a healthy college culture.
- Read and understand this policy if they have the capacity to do so, otherwise a parent/carers 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 college or college-related activities.
 - Not smoking tobacco products or vapes in the college facility and the buffer zone, defined as a 'smoke-free zone', at any time including during and after school hours, on weekends and during college holidays. It is an offence for a person (including students) to smoke tobacco products or vapes in a smoke-free zone in Queensland ¹².

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

Implementation

Action plan

If Border Rivers Christian 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 students, staff and any other persons concerned.
- Interview the student.
- Search the college or the student's personal property (if required), adopting the processes outlined below.
- Remove the student's personal property (if required), adopting the processes outlined below.
- Offer appropriate support to any student involved in the matter.
- Implement any other consequences or actions that might be appropriate in the circumstances, including potential disciplinary action under the Border Rivers Christian College's Behaviour Management Policy.
- Consider the need to communicate the incident to staff, students and parents/carers, taking into account the privacy of the persons concerned and the duty of care the college owes to other students and staff.
- Keep accurate records of the events and actions taken.

Property Searches

A Principal has a legal obligation to ensure college premises remain safe and secure for students, college staff and other visitors. This duty arises from both the common law duty of care and the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Qld). To give effect to this obligation, Border Rivers Christian College has developed the following procedures to manage this duty of care while balancing respect for a student's person and property.

Searching College Property

Student lockers and desks are college property and college staff can search them and any other college property for items or substances without permission of the student or a parent/carer if there are reasonable grounds to suspect the possession of dangerous drugs (an offence under the Drugs Misuse Act) or other items or substances that are included in the list of *Banned Items and Substances* in this policy.

Searching Personal Property

Generally, college staff will seek consent from the student or a parent/carer before searching a student's personal property (e.g. a school bag). If a student is asked for consent and refuses, consent will be obtained from a parent/carer before the search is conducted.

If search consent has been obtained, the following search practices will be adopted:

- The search will be conducted by asking the student to open their personal property (e.g. school bag) and for the student to move any contents around so that they can be more easily viewed by the staff member conducting the search, rather than the staff member opening the bag and touching the items themselves.
- The search will be dealt with in a sensitive manner, including being undertaken in a private setting away from other students and while the student is present.
- Where practicable, an independent observer such as another staff member will also be present.

- There will be no physical contact with a student by a staff member when a search is being conducted. While a staff member can ask a student to empty their pockets, any physical search of a student will only be carried out by police.

If consent to open and search student personal property is not given, and college staff reasonably believe the student is in possession of property that is illegal to possess, threatens the safety or wellbeing of students, college staff or other persons, or is reasonably suspected to have been used to commit a crime, the college will call the police.

- Under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (Qld), the police have the power to search students, their possessions and their vehicles if they reasonably suspect they will find evidence of a drug offence.
- If police are requested to attend the college to conduct a search of a student or a student's personal property, an attempt will be made to contact the student's parents/carers prior to any search being conducted to notify them of what will be taking place.
- If parents/carers cannot be contacted prior to the search being undertaken, college staff will contact them after the search has been completed to inform them of the search and any subsequent action taken.

Removing Personal Property

If the staff member holds a reasonable belief that the student is in possession of items or substances that:

- are illegal to possess; or
- threaten the safety or wellbeing of students, college staff or other persons; or
- are included in the list of *Banned Items and Substances* in this policy; or
- are reasonably suspected to have been used to commit a crime;

Then college staff will immediately remove the personal property, item or substance and obtain consent to search the bag (if required) or call the police.

If the police have informed the college that they will be attending the college to investigate matters relating to the temporarily removed item or substance, it will be retained by the college until the police instruct otherwise.

The item or substance will not be returned if a police officer has seized the property under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (Qld). In these circumstances, the student and their parent/carer will be advised of this action and that the temporarily removed student property is no longer in the possession of the college.

If the college staff member knows or reasonably suspects the student is not the owner of the item or substance, they will make reasonable efforts to return the item or substance to the owner, provided that college staff consider possession will not present a safety or wellbeing risk to any student, college staff or other person.

College staff will make arrangements for the property to be collected by the student or parent/carer at the conclusion of the school day, or if this is not possible, as soon as practicable, with consideration of:

- the condition, nature and value of the property
- the circumstances in which the property was removed from the student
- the safety and wellbeing of all students, college staff and other persons
- the good management, administration and control of the college.

The item or substance will be returned to a parent/carer and not the student, if college staff consider that possession of the material or substance by the student will present a safety or wellbeing risk to any student, college staff or other person.

If college staff have made reasonable efforts to notify the student or their parent/carer that the property is available for collection (e.g. multiple phone calls) and have not been able to make contact so that the item or substance has not been collected, the college will retain the property until it is collected.

College staff will not access information from temporarily removed student property such as mobile phones or other personal electronic devices, for example by unlocking, accessing or copying information.

Risk Management Framework

Border Rivers Christian College's Risk Management Framework provides further guidance on the process and approach to managing risks involving student's use, possession or supply of all Banned Items and Substances at college and college-related activities.

Information, training, instruction, and supervision

Border Rivers Christian College will ensure that appropriate information, training, instruction, and supervision is provided to students and staff regarding this policy.

Border Rivers Christian College's Staff Handbook provides further guidance on the information, training, instruction, and supervision provided to students and staff at the college.

Compliance and Monitoring

Incident Reporting

Border Rivers Christian College has implemented an Incident Report Process which requires staff and other persons to report any incidents involving this policy. The college will regularly monitor, collate, and report on these incidents.

Training

On induction and with annual refreshers, Border Rivers Christian College will train its staff on this policy, any related processes and the conduct of staff and students.

Complaints Procedure

Suggestions of non-compliance with this policy and any related processes may be submitted as complaints under Border Rivers Christian College's Complaint Policy & Procedures.