



## SCHOOL DRUGS POLICY

### LIVE LIFE FULLY – BE DRUG FREE

At Trinity Anglican School our mission is to nurture Christian formation and educational excellence in young people, inspiring them to reach their potential as individuals and serving members of the wider community. We believe that this can be achieved only when students are allowed to learn and grow in a 'drug free' environment, as well as when they are equipped to make healthy personal choices about drugs.

The successful implementation of a Drugs Policy at TAS hinges on a strong, committed and co-operative spirit between parents, staff and students of the School community.

#### The TAS Drugs Policy is built on four pillars.

- Education
- Rehabilitation
- Discipline
- Communication and Promotion

#### Education

Programs at TAS aim to inform students about drugs and in addition to focus on the underlying causes of experimentation and in some cases, dependency. Our education programme will provide alternative 'drug free' strategies for working through issues of concern to adolescents, for example depression, life crisis, low self-esteem and peer pressure. The curriculum areas of SOSE, CRAVE, HPE, Science and English are all strategic for this task of education.

#### Discipline

Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs, while on the School campus, on a School activity (eg. camp or excursion) or in School uniform (to and from school) is strictly prohibited. Students who offend against this policy will be expected to take full responsibility for their actions. Disciplinary measures taken against offending students may include some or all of the following sanctions:

- Suspension from school for a period of time
- Engagement in an appropriate counselling and/or rehabilitation programme at the expense of the student or the student's parents
- Exclusion from some School events and/or privileges
- Recompense to the School community in the form of work-related detentions
- Probationary status upon returning to School
- Expulsion from the School. This will apply to students found to be bringing illegal drugs to the school, selling drugs at school or in the case of a repeat offence involving the use of drugs. It is also an option for other drug related offences.

The Principal may request the student's permission to search their property, including their school bag or locker.

Should the student deny the Principal access to their school bag or locker, the Principal may contact the local police and advise police of their suspicions of drugs in the student's property. The student will not be permitted to return to his or her school bag and locker between the time of refusal of access to the property to the time police attend the school to take appropriate action.

### **Rehabilitation**

Experience dictates that early intervention is the key to successful rehabilitation. All students need help to make wise decisions and informed choices about drug use. Help needs to be available at various points along the path of substance abuse from experimentation. Where necessary the School, the students and the student's parents may be required to collaborate to provide an appropriate rehabilitation strategy. Professional help may be engaged where needed.

### **Communication and Promotion**

The most effective approach in the battle against drugs involves the promotion of persuasive positive images of happy and healthy young people who have chosen to live 'drug free'. The desire for a drug free school community is a vision expressing optimism and a positive view of humanity.

