PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES (STUDENT)

POLICY DETAIL	
Revision #	2
Effective Date	October 2026
Review Date	January 2028

CONTEXT

This policy aims to promote the development of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to live a healthy and fulfilling life. It is framed within the Catholic Christian principles that underpin education at Thomas More College. In particular the implementation of this policy aims to:

- To protect the safety and welfare of the students and staff within the Thomas More Community.
- To reduce the effects of the inappropriate use of Prohibited Substances, not only on the individual, but on the College, family and the community.
- To ensure the standard application of procedures and consequences for students who breach this policy.
- To provide a balanced education and understanding for students, through our core curriculum, of the effects associated with the use of Prohibited Substances.
- To ensure that within a safe and caring environment, issues surrounding prohibited substances are dealt with in an educated and considered manner.

PHILOSOPHY

Thomas More College is committed to making our community a safe and happy environment. Concerns about drugs, bullying and violence are widespread in many communities. They have no place in our College. It is our expectation that students will not, while on college premises, at college functions, whilst wearing the college uniform or travelling to and from the College be involved with the use of prohibited substances. Our principles upon which the response to tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs are based include:

- Support for students, parents and staff in the endeavour to live by Christian values.
- Promotion of respect for self and others.
- Promotion of an environment where spiritual, social, emotional, intellectual and physical wellbeing are nurtured and developed.
- The importance of informed decision making about the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs in the community.
- The education of young people, via the curriculum, of the nature of drug use and abuse.
- Clear management and support strategies for matters related to drug use and abuse.
- Communication between students, parents and other interested parties on health promotion in the school community.

PROCEDURE

It is our expectation that students will not, while on college premises, at college functions, whilst wearing college uniform or travelling to and from the College:

- consume alcohol,
- smoke tobacco, E-Cigarettes (vaping),
- consume energy drinks,
- possess or use prohibited drugs,
- possess drug-related equipment (except in cases of lawful medical use),
- possess any intimidating or harmful articles,
- intimidate others in regard to prohibited substances.

The sale, supply, provision, handling, transmission, use and possession of a prohibited substance and/or related equipment by Thomas More College students is strictly prohibited. This prohibition applies within the College zone (as defined) and at any event formally associated with Thomas More College and indeed while students are identifiable as members of the Thomas More College community. Specifically:

- The College will be proactive through its education programs about Prohibited Substances as well as reactive to the abuse of these substances.
- Under reasonable suspicion of possession or used of prohibited substances, the College reserves the right to search student's bags, lockers, uniform or other property in the presence of two staff members (one leader) and the student.
- Each instance of prohibited substances abuse should be considered fairly, individually and according to the given set of circumstances.
- Students who bring or use prohibited substances for the first time will be suspended (internal or external suspension depending on the circumstances) and require contact with their parents and the College to discuss the possibility of rejoining the College community. In conjunction with this suspension, other practical measures such as drug counselling and or education and/or community services may be required. Not all students will be offered a second chance at Thomas More College (see Basis of Discretion).
- Students who buy or use prohibited substances for a second time will be asked to leave the community and may be supported in a transfer to another school.
- Students who sell or supply substantial quantities or widely distribute a prohibited substance will be asked to leave the community. Support in a transfer to another school may be instigated.
- It is important for students and parents/caregivers to know, however, that the possession and/or sale of illegal drugs is against the law and police will be notified.

Basis of Discretion

The Principal, in consultation with senior members of staff, will in most circumstances act according to these guidelines. The Principal reserves the right for some discretion in applying penalties depending upon the age and maturity level of the student, the quantity and nature of the prohibited substance and the student's previous behaviour record. The Principal will need to consider how much a student's actions have affected the safety and welfare of other students. The grater the effect, the less likely a second chance will be offered.

Help Available

Drug and Alcohol Services Council SA (info, counselling, treatment, referral and training)..... 7425 5000
Drug and Alcohol Services Council SA (24-hour information and counselling service)..... 1300 131 340
Centacare Catholic Family Services..... 8210 8200
Lifeline..... 13 11 14
Kids Help Line..... 1800 551 800

Aerosol Cans

Aerosol products such as deodorants, hairspray and body spray are known asthma triggers. These pressurised aerosol products emit volatile organic chemicals and produce a fine mist that is easily inhaled into the lungs. Hence, aerosol products are banned at the College i.e. they should not be seen or used. Students should consider using roll-on deodorants or liquid-paste products instead.

Glass Bottles/Containers

Glass drink bottles and other containers are prohibited as they pose significant risks such as:

- Cuts/lacerations from broken glass.
- The embedding of glass fragments in the eye.
- Slips from split liquids on the floors.

Students should ensure all drink containers brought to the College are shatter proof, such as a stainless-steel water bottle or a BPA free plastic water bottle.

Policy Approvals	Signature	Dated
Approved by Principal		6/11/2026