



POLICY SECTION: SAFE SCHOOLS

SUB-SECTION:

POLICY NAME: ALCOHOL, CANNABIS AND OTHER DRUGS

POLICY NO: S.S.03

Date Approved:	Date of Next Review:	Dates of Amendments: Feb 15th, 1990; December 13th, 2002; June 11th, 2015 January 21, 2019
Cross References B.B.04 Smoke and Vapour Free Space Policy S.S. 01 Consolidated Suspension and Expulsion Policy S.S. 01 Operation Procedures Appendix A Protocol to Suspension S.S. 01 Operation Procedures Appendix C Protocol to Expulsion S.S. 01 Operational Procedures Appendix F Statutory Powers Procedure Act S.S. 09 Code of Conduct Policy S.S. 10 Progressive Discipline Police/School Board Protocol Police/School Board Protocol Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, SO 2017, C26, Sch 5 Municipal Code, Chapter 709, Smoking Ontario Regulation 268/18 Cannabis Act, 2017, SO 2017, C26, Sch 1 Bill 174, Cannabis, Smoke-Free Ontario and Road Safety Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017 PPM 145 Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour, 2018		
Appendix		

Purpose:

This policy **outlines the Toronto Catholic District School Board's position on the use of alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs on TCDSB property and at TCDSB-related events and/or activities.** It affirms that, consistent with our Multi-Year Strategic Plan, Catholic Social Teachings and our Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, the conduct of students and support of staff is expected to be modelled upon Christ. Conduct falling below that standard requires



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appropriate discipline. The perils and prevalence of alcohol, cannabis and other drugs within youth culture invite our Catholic school communities to shine particular focus upon this issue. Creating a **safe and** positive ~~and responsive~~ school climate is a shared responsibility of all stakeholders. "...And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Scope and Responsibility:

This policy has implications for ~~all individuals of the TCDSB~~ **anyone on TCDSB property or at Board-related events and/or activities.** ~~, in particular students, but as it applies to prevention, intervention and discipline, not only students, but also parents, teachers, school staff, administrators, parish priests, and community school partners.~~ The Director of Education is responsible for this policy.

Alignment with **Multi Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)**:

~~Fostering Student Achievement and Well-Being~~

~~Living Our Catholic Values~~

~~Strengthening Public Confidence~~

Learning – Growing in Knowledge

Continue to develop a Christ-centered learning organization in pursuit of knowledge, innovation, and responsiveness.

Equity – Growing in Knowledge with Justice



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Apply Catholic social justice to nurture a community focused on equity, diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, and anti-oppression.

Well-Being – Growing in Knowledge with Justice and Hope

Strengthen an environment rooted in Gospel values that nurtures hope and wellbeing and to better support a work-life balance for all staff that nurtures spiritual, emotional, physical, and social well-being.

Policy:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes its obligation to create a positive and responsive school climate. **The recreational use, possession, or trafficking of alcohol, cannabis (including cannabinoids), and illegal drugs is not permitted by anyone, regardless of age, at any time on Board property or at Board-related events and/or activities.**

For the purposes of this policy, “illegal drugs” includes ~~The Board does not tolerate during school, or Board sponsored events, the use, possession, or trafficking~~ **but is not limited to any substance that is illegal by virtue of any statute or regulation of Ontario or, Canada, including prescription drugs for which a valid prescription has not been issued to person possessing/using it. It also includes any substance that is prohibited by Board policy. This policy does not prohibit the possession or use of drugs, including cannabis, when prescribed by a physician and used in accordance with the physician’s directions. It also does not prohibit over-the-counter medications that are used appropriately (and with the permission of a parent or legal guardian in**



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the case of students under the age of 18).

The prohibitions in this policy apply to by students, school staff, administrators, employees, and parish priests, **any community partners, third party agents, or permit holders.** ~~of any substance which is unlawful under statute or regulation of Ontario, Canada or Board policy.~~

Further recognizing that alcohol, cannabis and other drug abuse is a concern in youth culture and is potentially very harmful, ~~and acknowledging the God-given dignity and value of each person and the need to understand the human journey in the context of relationship,~~ the Toronto Catholic District School Board will address student alcohol, cannabis and other drug use, both proactively and with fair disciplinary action, **in affirmation of the God-given dignity and value of each person.**

Regulations:

1. The Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes the role of drug education in reducing alcohol, cannabis and other drug related problems, and will therefore address student alcohol, cannabis and other drug use by implementing a comprehensive curriculum designed to prevent alcohol, cannabis and other drug-related problems.
2. TCDSB drug prevention curriculum will be given a high level of priority ~~with regard to~~ **for** development and implementation, ~~and~~ will be linked to the developmental stages of the students, and **will** contain specific objectives for each grade from primary to secondary.



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3. Alcohol, cannabis and other drug prevention curriculum will be incorporated into various subject areas, covering a wide range of topics. **It will be**, further supplemented by extra-curricular activities within the school community.
4. Alcohol, cannabis and other drug prevention curriculum is addressed within the Ministry of Education ~~Physical and Health Education~~ **and Physical Education (HPE)** Curriculum, ~~K~~ **Grades 1-12**. While primary implementation will take place within the HPE curriculum, the monitoring and extra-curricular supports will be supported by a cross-disciplinary team, which includes contributions from the **Curriculum Leadership & Innovation** ~~and Accountability~~ department, the TCDSB Mental Health Lead, the Social Work and Psychology departments and the Safe Schools department.
5. The alcohol, cannabis and other drug prevention curriculum shall be evaluated regularly and revised as necessary.
6. Where proactive education and preventative efforts have been unsuccessful, an early intervention program will be employed, offering early assistance to students who are experiencing problems related to alcohol, cannabis and other drugs. This **assistance** ~~can~~ **may** include supports from community partners with specialization in this area.
7. A process for identification of, and early intervention into, problems among



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students for whom preventive efforts have been unsuccessful shall include:

- a) Ensuring all appropriate staff have been familiarized with the signs and symptoms of alcohol, cannabis and other drug use/ ~~or~~ abuse by students.
- b) Acquainting all staff with the procedures to follow and referrals skills required when dealing with alcohol, cannabis and other drug use/abuse by students.
- c) Informing all students and their parents/guardians of the existence of early intervention programs and how to gain access.

8. Violations of **this policy can amount to a violation of the** TCDSB Code of Conduct ~~under the auspices of this policy can occur in seven~~ **in several** ways, **including but not limited to:**

- a) Use of tobacco or tobacco products, **including vaping;**
- b) Use or possession of alcohol;
- c) Use or possession of **any form of** cannabis;
- ~~d) Use or possession of products containing cannabinoids~~
- e) Use of inhalants for the purpose of intoxication;
- f) Use or possession of ~~illicit~~ **illegal** drugs;
- g) Intoxication by alcohol, cannabis or other drugs;
- h) **Sale or** ~~T~~trafficking of **tobacco, alcohol, cannabis or** illegal drugs; **and**
- i) Giving **tobacco, alcohol, ~~or~~ cannabis, or illegal drugs** to a minor.

Responses related to violations of this policy are addressed through a



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progressive discipline approach that considers mitigating and other factors, and that includes consultation between the principal/site manager and the appropriate supervisory officer.

9. ~~The Toronto Catholic District School Board prohibits the use of alcohol, cannabis, or drugs by students while on board property or at events sponsored by the Board and its constituent schools. The possession of alcohol, cannabis, and illegal drugs these substances, with the exception of tobacco and tobacco products, is also prohibited. [Note: While students over sixteen years of age may legally possess tobacco and students over eighteen years of age may legally possess cannabis, this provision recognizes that the Toronto Catholic District School Board prohibits the use of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or other drugs on school property or at school sponsored events.]~~

109.

a. **In accordance with** ~~T~~*the Smoke-Free Ontario Act*, **its regulations**, governs all offences related to smoking on school property. Further, **and Chapter 709** of the *Municipal Code*, ~~Chapter 709~~ further strengthens the obligations each school must fulfill to remain in compliance with legislation and municipal bylaws. **A** all school administrators/**site managers** will ensure that staff, students, parents and members of the public are aware that smoking **or vaping** tobacco or cannabis is not permitted on school **Board** property nor within 20 metres of any point on the perimeter of school **Board** property.



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b. Signage shall be posted at all entrances, exits, washrooms and other appropriate locations to ensure compliance.

c. In secondary schools, the Health and Physical Education Department will work with Toronto Public Health and the tobacco enforcement officials to create a unified procedure ~~in regards to protocol~~ for enforcing the *Smoke Free Ontario Act* in the Toronto Catholic District School Board secondary schools.

~~11~~**10.** Should a student be found in possession of a substance **that is prohibited by this policy, either** on school **Board** property or at a school-related **Board-related** event **and/or activity** ~~which is legally prohibited~~, whether for their own use or for distribution/trafficking, the substance will be confiscated, and the police ~~must~~ may be notified. ~~This includes alcohol and cannabis where consumption and possession are age-restricted by legislation.~~

~~12~~**11.** a. Consistent with S.S. 01 Suspension and Expulsion ~~Consolidated Policy~~ and S.S. 09 ~~TCDSB~~ Code of Conduct **Policy**, all TCDSB employees must report to the principal as soon as reasonably possible – and no later than the end of the school day – if they become aware of a student who may have engaged in a serious student incident, such as the possession, use, trafficking or distribution of prohibited substances. ~~Staff who may be excluded from this provision are~~ **Members of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Services Workers and Members members of the College of Psychologists of Ontario, shall also report, in a manner that is consistent with the code of**



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ethics and the standards of practice of their respective professions, matters that could result in the student doing physical, emotional, or psychological harm to themselves or to others. In all other circumstances, members of these Colleges who are engaged in a clinical relationship with a student shall report such incidents to the principal as soon as it is, in their professional opinion, reasonably possible to do so without having a negative impact on the nature of the clinical relationship. They ~~if they are involved in a confidential therapeutic role with the student and if the use of substance use does not present imminent harm to self or others.~~

- b. In accordance with ~~the~~ sections 306- and 310- of ~~The~~ **the** *Education Act*, a principal shall consider whether to suspend or expel a pupil if he or she believes that the pupil has engaged in any of the ~~Activities~~ **activities** identified in *Operational Procedures "Protocol to Suspension and Expulsion"* (S.S. 01 - Appendix A) ~~or Operational Procedures "Protocol to Expulsion" (S.S. 01 - Appendix C)~~ while at school, at a school related activity, or in other circumstances where engaging in the ~~A~~ **a** activity will have a negative impact on school climate. Principals will consider a harm reduction model, which signifies that the purpose of suspensions should not be punitive but rather supportive to the student and school population.
- ~~13~~**12**. If any school staff, administrator, or employee is found in possession or in use of alcohol, cannabis ~~and~~ **or** other **illegal** drugs, that individual may be subject to discipline.



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Definitions:

Alcohol:

Refers to an intoxicating liquor, alcoholic drink, strong drink, drink, spirits or intoxicants.

Cannabis:

Cannabis, also known as marijuana among other names, is a psychoactive drug from the Cannabis plant used for medical or recreational purposes. **The term “cannabis”, as used in this policy, refers to all forms of cannabis, including but not limited to cannabinoids, edibles, liquid edibles, extracts and topical cannabis.**

Cannabinoid:

The word cannabinoid refers to every chemical substance, regardless of structure or origin, that joins the cannabinoid receptors of the body and brain. The two main Cannabinoids are delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD). This includes products that are ingested (liquid or solid), inhaled or applied topically.

Drug Use:

"Drug use" refers to drugs other than alcohol and includes cannabis, tobacco, ~~illicit~~ **illegal** drugs, inhalants, and prescription drugs used without the authority of a physician. It does not include drugs, including cannabis, when prescribed by a physician, or over-the-counter medications used appropriately **(and** with the permission of a parent or legal guardian in the case of students under the age of 18).



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Illegal Drugs:

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Evaluation and Metrics:

The effectiveness of the policy will be determined by measuring the following: Local Safe and Accepting Schools Teams will review local data related to the number of incidents involving smoking, alcohol, cannabis or illegal drugs (use, possession, trafficking) to inform their annual Safe Schools Plan and establish yearly local priorities.