

CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

POLICY STATEMENT

The possession, use and trafficking of alcohol, tobacco and drugs are unacceptable and will not be tolerated on school property, on school buses or during school-related activities.

RATIONALE

Calvin Christian School is committed to promoting the health and well-being of all students and creating a learning environment where all students feel safe and cared for.

Alcohol, tobacco and drugs are addictive, harmful to the school community, and threaten the health and well-being of students. Calvin Christian School acknowledges that creating a healthy environment for the school community is everyone's responsibility. The policy is

- Supportive of people trying to quit
- Part of the school's broader substance use prevention strategy
- Applied fairly to everyone

Calvin Christian School has created a comprehensive prevention strategy that prohibits the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs on school grounds. The prevention strategy provides a framework for

- Prevention of substance use
- Intervention with students at risk of developing substance use
- Identification, assessment and referral for student substance use

This policy was developed in consultation with the principal, teachers, school staff, professionals, and parents. It has been approved by the school board. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.

POLICY PURPOSE AND PROCEDURES

1. To contribute to the prevention of substance use problems among Calvin Christian School students:
 - Substance use prevention programs will be offered in the school in a coordinated, integrated and sequential manner. They will be based on the Alberta Learning program of studies for Health and Life Skills Kindergarten to Grade Nine Guide to Implementation or Career and Life Management Guide to Implementation.
 - The rules about the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs will be clearly communicated to students and included in students' school agendas.
 - Via the annual parent survey, Calvin Christian School will complete a needs assessment to determine which issues related to substance use are viewed by the school community to be of greatest importance.
 - The principal and Substance Abuse Council have leadership roles in implementing and monitoring prevention initiatives and procedures for dealing with substance use and evaluating the policy as a whole.

2. To create a safe and caring school environment, free from alcohol, tobacco, and drugs:

Calvin Christian School does not permit students to do the following while on school property, on school buses, or during school-related activities.

- Use or possess tobacco products
- Consume or possess alcohol
- Inhale solvents
- Use or possess pharmaceutical drugs for non-medical purposes
- Use or possess illicit drugs
- Use or possess drug related equipment
- Be in the presence of other individuals who are violating the school policy.

If a student is using pharmaceutical drugs for legitimate medical purposes, staff may contact parents for confirmation.

3. In order to facilitate 1 and 2 above:

- Random, unannounced patrols will take place at school by a drug sniffing dog. The dog will be sniffing vehicles and lockers. No individual students will be sniffed.
- If the dog detects the scent drugs, the student and his/her parents will be informed, even if no actual drugs are found.
- If drugs are found, the Substance Abuse Council will become involved. (see process)

Dealing with Policy Violations

Tobacco Offenses

Students who violate Calvin Christian School's tobacco policy will be dealt with as follows:

Process:

1. The student's parents or guardians will be notified and a letter will be sent home.
2. The students will receive a one day in-school suspension.
3. For repeat offenders, parents or guardians will be contacted and the student will receive a three-day out-of-school suspension.

Alcohol or Drug Offenses

Students who violate Calvin Christian School's alcohol or drug policy will be dealt with as follows (summarized in the flow chart following the policy statement):

I. Initial Process:

- A. Student Safety:
 - A school staff member will respond to students' immediate safety and medical needs, if any.
- B. Verification of Facts:
 - The school principal will validate the facts of the incident by interviewing relevant staff and students.
 - If necessary, he will search the student's locker, possibly using a dog. Any alcohol or drugs found will be confiscated. The principal will determine if the police are to be contacted.
 - If illicit drugs are confiscated, they will be properly managed until they can be disposed of or turned over to the police.
 - The student's parents (or guardians) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up from school.
- C. Dealing with the Student on the Day of the Offense:
 - The student will be suspended for a minimum of three days during which two members of the Substance Abuse Council will meet with the student and his/her parents to explain the process. The student's pastor will be informed.
- D. Further Dealings with the Student:
 - The student and parents will determine whether they wish to commit themselves to the process of resolving the issue.
 - The student will be given time to consult with their pastor and/or one of the staff members of the council.
 - The principal or SAC will document in writing from time of violation through commitment to, and completion of, the process.

II. Commitment to the Process:

- A. Terms for Returning to and Staying in School:
 - Parents and student will be required to demonstrate commitment to this process by signing a behavior contract. (Committing to this process indicates a willingness to continue being a part of the school and honestly working towards a meaningful and fair solution.)
 - The student will be allowed to attend school after the minimum three-day suspension, but will be placed on probation for a minimum of 8 weeks.
 - For the duration of the contract and the probationary period, the student will not be allowed to leave school property during the course of the day without the express permission of the principal or high school vice-principal.

B. Process Details:

- The student will be required to take at least two sessions with an AMH (Alberta Health Services – Addiction and Mental Health, formerly known as AADAC) counselor, and at least one of the sessions must include the parents. The ramifications of substance abuse will be explained and discussed.
- The student will also be required to take one counseling session with the pastor (or consistory member if pastor unavailable), which may include the parents, in order to resolve some of the deeper issues surrounding substance abuse and the aspect of Christian living.
- To enhance accountability during the process, the student will meet with the school counselor at least once, and more often if deemed necessary by the counselor or SAC. The counselor will seek to be an encouragement and a sounding board for the student as they continue to work through the process.
- The staff council member will communicate as needed with the student's pastor to keep him informed as to progress being made.
- At any time during the probationary period, the Substance Abuse Council may request a return to an earlier step in the process.

C. At the End of the Process:

- The student and parents will again meet with the Substance Abuse Council (same members as at original meeting) to debrief the process and encourage the student and the family in continued efforts to prevent a recurrence of the problem.
- The student will write up a summary of what has been learned through this process.
- The student is once again accepted as a full student within the school.

OR

- The Substance Abuse Council may determine that the student should remain on probation for an additional number of weeks.

D. If the Probationary Period Is Extended:

- The behavior contract will remain in effect.
- The Substance Abuse Council may request a return to any earlier step in the process.
- The student will continue to have timely visits with the school counselor and/or the staff council member who will maintain contact with the student's pastor.
- The student and parents will again meet with the Substance Abuse Council to debrief the process and encourage the student and the family in continued efforts to prevent a recurrence of the problem.
- The student will write up a summary of what has been learned through this process.

E. Repeat offenders:

- The Substance Abuse Council will discuss the matter with the school board to determine what course of action should be taken.

III. **No Commitment to the Process:**

If the student and parents decide that they are unwilling to commit themselves to the process:

- The Substance Abuse Council will refer the matter to the school board.
- The option of following the process will remain open should the family decide at a later time to follow the process for reintegration into the school.