

Substance Abuse Policy

This policy reflects our ethos and commitment to a whole College approach to Wellbeing and the promotion of positive behaviour for life. We believe prevention and early intervention are key to student wellbeing and engagement, based on the principles of harm minimisation. Our aim is to provide resilience and build on knowledge, skills and behaviours through curricular and co-curricular programs to enable our students to make responsible, healthy and safe choices when they inevitably find themselves in a context where drugs are available and/or are being used.

The use and abuse of alcohol, cigarettes, other substances (such as performance enhancing drugs, consciousness altering substances, prescription drugs when not taken pursuant to an individual's prescribed regime) and the use of illicit drugs is common amongst adolescents in Australia. Scotch College Adelaide, in common with other schools, has responsibility towards addressing this circumstance, fulfilling our responsibility to Boarding and Day students on behalf of their parents.

Guiding Principles

- The College is committed to educating students on the risks associated with the use of substances through various learning programs and experiences
- The College believes that in a harm minimisation approach to educating our students about the risks associated with the use of substances

Related Policies and Procedures:

- Safety, Wellbeing and Inclusion Policy (Torrens Park Campus)
- Student Incident Processes (Torrens Park Campus)
- Suspension and Termination Policy

1. Prevention through Education focused on Wellbeing

The College Drug Education program aims to prevent:

- harmful drug use
- inappropriate alcohol consumption by students
- illicit drug use

Scotch College provides all students in Years 3 – 12 with a drug education, prevention and intervention program through the Health and Physical Education curriculum. This program is strengthened with additional lessons being provided around personal wellbeing through our explicit Wellbeing classroom programs.

In addition, for Senior Students, a range of quality external providers present on a regular basis on topics associated with safe partying and the use of drugs in youth culture. There is a systemized and age and stage appropriate drug education program overseen jointly by the Director of Student Wellbeing, Head of Health and Physical Education, and Deputy Head of Mitcham Campus.

2. Harm Minimisation

Harm minimisation is the underpinning approach Scotch uses in drug education and this approach influences our policies and programs that are designed to reduce drug-related harm. Harm minimisation aims to improve health, social and economic outcomes for both the community and the individual and encompasses a wide range of approaches.

Scotch uses a harm minimisation approach to review and implement school drug education programs and activities that:

- Are comprehensive and evidence based
- Promote a positive school climate and relationships
- Are targeted to needs and contexts identified through consultation with students, staff and parents and guardians
- Embed timely, developmentally appropriate drug education programs within a curriculum framework that utilizes effective pedagogy

2.1 Prevention and Reduction of Drug Related Harm

The College's approach includes:

- Prevention through education and creating a respectful and safe school
- Early intervention to prevent later harmful drug use

2.2 Drug Related Incident Response

The College's approach includes:

- Student wellbeing
- Ensuring the response is well managed through a Natural Justice approach (see **Student Incident Procedures**)
- Utilizing partnerships with parents and caregivers and police (when necessary)
- Ensuring the response does not cause any secondary harm, such as social stigmatization, reduced self-worth, and associated truancy

3. Expectations for Students

3.1 Prescription Drugs

The possession, distribution and use of prescription drugs without a prescription by students is prohibited on College premises and at any College sanctioned event or activity.

3.2 Tobacco

The possession, distribution and use of tobacco by students is prohibited on College premises and at any College sanctioned event or activity.

3.3 Vaping

The possession, distribution and use of e-cigarettes on school grounds is prohibited on College premises and at any College sanctioned event or activity.

3.4 Alcohol

The possession, distribution and consumption of alcohol by students is prohibited:

- on College grounds
- at any College sanctioned event or activity, with the exception of the Principal's Graduation Dinner if a student is supervised by their parent or guardian and they are over the age of 18 in line with State Laws and regulations.

3.4.1 The consumption of alcohol by all attendees at College sanctioned events is discouraged if students are to be present. It is understood that in some circumstances it is not practicable to have a total ban on alcohol consumption at events where students may be present. Therefore, the serving and consumption of alcohol on College grounds, or at College sanctioned events including camps, or functions off campus, must fall within the following guidelines.

The person responsible for an event where alcohol is consumed must:

- obtain the Principal's approval before alcohol may be consumed on College premises, or at College approved activities.
- ensure legal requirements for the sale and/or provision of alcohol in public situations at College functions are enforced including adherence to the responsible service of alcohol (see **General Code of Practice Guidelines – Liquor Licensing Act 1997**).
- prohibit the consumption of alcohol by students
- ensure students are not responsible for the service, distribution, or clearing of any alcohol related paraphernalia including glassware, cans or bottles in which alcohol has been stored
- ensure students are not involved in fundraising activities which have and alcoholic beverage as a prize.

3.4.2 Consumption of alcohol on school camps and excursions is prohibited by students regardless of their age.

Staff supervising an excursion or camp program must:

- Inform students and parents or guardians before departure of the alcohol prohibition and sanctions that can be expected for breaching (see **Section 4**)
- Act in accordance with their duty of care to students, which is in force during the entire time of the camp or excursion
- Be aware that consumption of alcohol by staff during the camp or excursion is:
 - Inconsistent with the standard of professional conduct necessary to maintain community confidence in these activities
 - Is considered unwise and could lead to allegations of negligence and loss of Work Cover rights
 - Is not permitted on a College sanctioned camp or excursion program

3.5 Performance Enhancing and Mood-Altering Substances

The possession, distribution and use of performance enhancing or mood-altering substances is prohibited on College premises and at any College sanctioned event or activity.

3.6 Illegal Drugs

The possession, distribution and use of illegal drugs and unsanctioned illegal drugs is prohibited on College premises and at any College sanctioned event or activity.

3.7 Planning with other students to contravene the expectations outlined in Sections 3.1– 3.6 is prohibited.

4. Contravention of this Policy

Scotch College treats drug and alcohol related incidents as a very serious matter. The Head of Campus, Deputy Head of Campus, Head of School, Head of Boarding or Director of Student Wellbeing will investigate allegations regarding students and the possession, distribution, use or involvement with the substances referenced in **Section 3**.

4.1 Investigating Substance Use by a Student

4.1.1 If a senior staff member is informed by another member of staff or public about a concern regarding a student and their use of a substance referred to in **Section 3** they are deemed to have been 'given information'. The senior staff member will confer with the Head of Campus and a decision will be made to inform the parents about the rumour. The Head of Campus is to use 'common-sense' in determining the reliability of the information and will work on the assumption that parents of Scotch students would want to be aware of such information and that it is being passed on with the best of intentions and without judgement or allegation.

4.1.2 The investigating staff member is guided by the **Student Incident Procedures** document. At all times during an investigation, the actions taken by the College are influenced by:

- The safety and/or health of the student(s) involved in, or impacted by, the possession, distribution or use of a substance
- The College's commitment to protecting the collective wellbeing of its community

4.1.3 The College reserves the right to require students to submit to a breathalyser test as part of their investigation.

4.1.4 The Head of Campus should notify police if the source of supply, such as a retailer, can be identified as part of the investigation.

- 4.1.5** The Principal, or senior staff delegate, may also request a search to be carried out of any student's possessions or room including their locker and school bag (as per **Student Incident Processes** document section 3.1.5)

4.2 Students Under the Influence of Alcohol

- 4.2.1** If a student is at school under the influence of alcohol, whether adversely affected by it or not, their parent or guardian would be contacted and asked to take the student home. Return to school would be dependent on the decision of the Principal in consultation with the Head of Campus.
- 4.2.2** If the student is severely affected by alcohol (e.g. grossly disorientated, depressed conscious state) they will be referred to the emergency department of the nearest hospital, preferably accompanied by their parent or guardian when available (it is noted that many young people combine alcohol with drugs and the combination may be dangerous). It is unlikely that a student affected by alcohol would be admitted to hospital, but after a period of assessment and observation in an emergency department would be discharged. The parent or guardian should be responsible for further care.
- 4.2.3** If the student is adversely affected by alcohol (e.g. vomiting) but not in danger, and cannot return home, they will be accommodated in the Health Centre for observation until their parent or guardian collected them. If this is not possible for boarders, as a last resort the student will be supervised in the Rosevear Boarding House until suitable arrangements are made in consultation with the parents or guardian.

4.3 Student Use of Illegal Drugs

4.3.1 Duty of Care

Teachers have a duty of care to pass on information to the Head of Campus and Principal if they have knowledge about illegal drug use by students or members of a student's family, irrespective of:

- whether the use is confirmed, suspected or likely to occur
- whether the use occurs on or outside of school grounds
- the drug

Under this duty of care, staff cannot promise unconditional confidentiality to students.

4.3.2 Drug Testing

The College does not support any form of drug testing in schools for students to avoid raising a lack of trust between schools and students as well as legal, technical, ethical and financial issues

4.4 Detoxification, Methadone or Alternate Pharmacotherapies.

Information about detoxification, methadone, or alternate pharmacotherapies is a private matter and only need to be shared between students and their parents or guardians, supporting community agency and school designated wellbeing staff. Information may be provided at the Principal's discretion only with the student's consent and to staff who have direct responsibility for the student. (For example, if the student's concentration or alertness may be affected by prescription medication).

Students should not be excluded from attendance based on their ongoing detoxification.

4.5 College Response to Substance Use by a Student

If a student is found to be in breach of the expectations regarding the substances outlined in **Section 3**, the College and the affected student(s) and parent(s) or guardian(s) will work together in the best interests of the student.

- 4.5.1** Students are suspended from normal class activities during any investigation into substance use by a student.
- 4.5.2** Parents or guardians will be informed prior to a *formal interview* process being conducted about what has been revealed in any initial investigation.
- 4.5.3** There will always be varying degrees of involvement by individual students and where possible, the designated senior leader conducting the investigation will ascertain the level of involvement for each individual before any consequence is given.
- 4.5.4** A boarding student who is involved in the possession, distribution, or use of a substance will likely be removed from the boarding house, regardless of the level of risk posed to themselves or others.
- 4.5.5** The Principal, or their nominated delegate, must advise the local police contact person (station commander or sub-officer nominee) when they have knowledge of an alleged criminal offence, including the possession, distribution and use of illicit drugs, and document internal procedures and actions undertaken.
- 4.5.6** Consequences for the possession, distribution and use of substances referred to in **Section 3** will likely result in an internal or external suspension. Failure to respond appropriately to this may ultimately result in the termination of the student's enrolment (see **Suspension and Termination Policy**).
- 4.5.7** The possession, distribution and use of illegal drugs (**Section 3.6**) may result in the immediate termination of the student's enrolment (see **Suspension and Termination Policy**)

- 4.5.8** In all circumstances, students will be given appropriate education and counselling. This will include working with the College Psychologists and external agencies as deemed appropriate by the College. Additional costs for follow-up support will be met by the family of the student.
- 4.5.9** Any student who is absent from school due to substance use, or the resultant treatment, should be provided with a learning plan as determined by teachers in consultation with:
- Parents or guardians
 - The school's appointed case manager (usually the Head of House)