

St Peter's College Drug Policy

(Updated February 2015 in line with Child Protection Desk Audit)

DRUG POLICY

POLICY OWNER: Headmaster

PURPOSE:

St Peter's College seeks to work with boys to assist them to build good, rewarding, and healthy lives. We aim to achieve this through a number of programs in the curricular, co-curricular and wellbeing dimensions of the school. We strive constantly to provide a safe and supportive school environment and to develop in our students the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to enable them to make responsible decisions regarding drugs and drug use.

We believe that for a student to lead a good and healthy life at school, and beyond, he will need a positive outlook, high self-efficacy, strong connectedness, a sense of purpose, a capacity to look beyond himself to the outside world, and a set of capabilities to ensure personal fulfilment. The School seeks always to promote the building of positive lives, and believes that the development of the personal qualities above will assist responsible decision making regarding drugs and drug use.

SCOPE:

The policy applies to all boys enrolled at St Peter's College.

REFERENCES:

Intervention matters: a policy statement and procedural framework for the management of suspected drug-related incidents in schools (DECD 2004, revised 2011)

The Principles for School Drug Education (2004)

National Framework for Protocols for Managing Illicit and Other Unsanctioned Drugs in Schools (DEST, June 2000)

Tobacco Products Regulation Act (1997)

Liquor Licensing Act (1997)

ALIGNMENT TO SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN:

Towards a Preferred Future – A Strategic Plan for St Peter's College 2011 – 2014 underpins this policy.

ALIGNMENT TO SCHOOL'S VISION & VALUES

Our vision is to be a world-class school where boys flourish. Our Core Values underpin this policy and procedure:

- Unlocking individual strengths and virtues.
- Embracing creative potential.
- Fostering wellbeing.
- Celebrating the uniqueness of each individual.
- Honouring differences and valuing teamwork.
- Developing life-long engagement, meaning and purpose.
- Celebrating accomplishments.
- Building life-long mindfulness, resilience and commitment to service.
- Developing emotional maturity and spiritual richness within the Anglican tradition.
- Fostering honesty and integrity.
- Meaningful engagement with our community;

DEFINITIONS:

For the purpose of this document, a **Drug** is a substance which produces a psychoactive effect (alters mental processes including mood, cognition, thinking or behaviour). The term drug is used generically to include tobacco and herbal cigarettes, alcohol, pharmaceutical drugs, illicit drugs, image and performance enhancing drugs, inhalants and kava.

An **Illicit Drug** is drug for which the production, sale, possession or use is prohibited. An alternative term is 'illegal drug'.

An **Unsanctioned Drug** is a drug whose use is restricted by law, school authorities and/or school policies/ guidelines. It includes illicit, social and prescription drugs. An unsanctioned drug is not necessarily illegal. For example, alcohol is an unsanctioned drug.

Drug Paraphernalia includes hypodermic needles, balloons, aluminium foil wrappers, mirrors or flat metal, short straws, glass pipes, bongos, smoking pipes, capsules, vials, folded paper envelopes, a cigarette lighter etc.

Refer to Appendix A – 'Quick drug reference for school communities' for further general information regarding substances, legal status and sanctioning.

POLICY

It is the School's policy that while on St Peter's College grounds, while taking part in any field trip or co-curricular activity organised by St Peter's College, while representing St Peter's College in any activity, students (regardless of being of legal age) are not permitted to:

- Possess drug-related paraphernalia
- Possess, supply, attempt to supply, use or be under the influence of illicit drugs
- Possess, supply, attempt to supply, use or be under the influence of unsanctioned drugs.

The law regarding the possession and supply of illicit drugs is clear. The community at large expects that a school will convey through its actions and teachings that it does not in any way encourage or condone any form of drug use that is prohibited by this policy.

TERMINATION OF ENROLMENT

The School owes a duty to care to all students. To appropriately exercise this duty, we will take immediate action to protect students from those who would seek to bring drugs into their lives. **Therefore, any student who procures or supplies illicit drugs for another student at any school related activity whether on the school grounds or outside, will have his enrolment cancelled immediately.** There will be a presumption that a person acting as a courier for others in procuring illicit and/or unsanctioned substances will be the person seen as responsible for the supply or procurement of the substance.

EDUCATION

For the majority, education prevents substance abuse. Through the Personal Development curriculum (Health and Physical Education, Religious and Values Education and Wellbeing) and the Pastoral Care structures and programs that also involve the Houses, Outdoor Education and Co-curricular programs, St Peter's College aims to ensure that students develop resilience, hold functional values and can make wise and informed choices regarding substance abuse. We aim to see that students:

- are informed about the known impact of drugs on the body and mind so they are equipped to make choices based on fact
- are informed about the social impact of drugs, so they understand the impact that drug use will have on their ability to function in society, and on the impact the widespread use of drugs has on society itself
- are encouraged to make choices leading to healthy, productive, and rewarding lifestyles
- are informed of the law in relation to the possession and use of drugs, and are led to the belief that all citizens have a duty to uphold the law
- are actively and decisively discouraged from the possession and use of illicit and unsanctioned drugs
- are encouraged to use pharmaceuticals appropriately
- are provided with strategies for harm minimisation in the event they or their peers are involved in an incident concerning the use of drugs of any kind
- are provided with the necessary, appropriate guidance and support should they be involved detrimentally with drugs, with the aim that they cease the harmful use of drugs
- are ensured of an environment in which they are protected from those who would seek to act contrary to the school's objectives in relation to drugs

WORKING WITH FAMILIES

All parents exercise an essential responsibility in relation to their children's education about drugs. Through their example and their teaching, from their children's earliest years right through the school years and beyond, parents work to develop in their children the personal qualities and values which will guide them away from the harmful use of drugs. It is essential that parents and the School are aligned in this crucial aim of equipping boys to avoid harmful drug use. An important aspect of this policy is the development of partnerships with parents, both in smaller groups and through information and discussion evenings.

MANAGING SUSPECTED DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

Refer to Appendix B - Drug Related Incident Procedural Guidelines

INTERVENTION AND ACTION

In the event of a student being suspected of breaching the policy, the School will conduct an investigation and if the suspicions prove to be true, will contact

parents and put in place an appropriate intervention.

Where an intervention is put in place, the prime objective in all cases is the cessation of the drug use. The safety and wellbeing of each student is paramount. Therefore, the School will meet its objectives for individual students in ways that are tailored to the individual's circumstances. Interventions will generally involve staff within the School such as the boy's Teacher, Head of House, House Mentor, Counsellor, Assistant Head of Junior/Senior School, Head of Junior/Senior School and the school's medical staff. Outside agencies may also be involved where appropriate.

There is a mandatory mutual obligation on the part of any student who is the subject of remedial intervention by the School: he will cooperatively engage in the remedies prescribed by the School. The remedies will involve a substantial commitment on the part of the student, and will be linked to the potential harm of the usage.

Students undertaking an intervention plan and their parents may be required to commit to the plan in writing. As in all matters, the School looks for growth in students, and seeks evidence of lessons being learned from students' mistakes. Because of this, repeat offences by an individual will be viewed very seriously indeed.

Where illicit drugs have been involved, the School must be convinced that a wholehearted and honest attempt has been made by the student to cease his involvement with drugs. If the student remains demonstrably free from any further involvement, then the student's enrolment will not be brought into question. It will be the responsibility of the student to demonstrate the cessation of drug use by undergoing appropriate drug testing, and to furnish the results to the School at the intervals determined by the School to be appropriate.

A failure at any time to meet all of the conditions prescribed by the School at the time of dealing with the matter of involvement with illicit drugs will see the student's enrolment cancelled immediately. The School will involve appropriate external agencies as required in individual cases.

In addition to a prescribed Intervention, other actions, sanctions and consequences will be decided upon by the Headmaster at his absolute discretion and will depend upon the circumstances of the incident and previous behaviour of the student.

CONSEQUENCES

Consequences might include one or more of the following:

- Detention
- Community service
- Suspension from School or activities
- Referral to an outside agency
- Regular counseling
- Student contract
- Referral to the South Australian Police
- Periodic drug testing to ensure the student is remaining drug-free

- Withdrawal
- Termination of enrollment
- Other actions deemed appropriate by the Headmaster

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RESPONSIBILITIES:

Headmaster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure staff, student and parent awareness of Drug Policy. • Ensure implementation of appropriate Drug Education Program. • Ensure procedural fairness when managing drug related incidents. • Undertake fair decision-making with respect to interventions, with each case being considered upon its own unique circumstances.
Head of Senior School, Head of Junior School	
Staff Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain vigilance with respect to drug related matters. • Follow <i>Drug Related Incident Procedural Guidelines</i>
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make responsible decisions regarding drugs and drug use. • When policy is contravened, cooperatively engage in the remedies prescribed by the School.






COMMUNICATION:

The Headmaster is responsible for promulgating this policy to all relevant staff members, boys and parents.

This policy will be available on the School's Information Portal - Keystone.

APPENDIX A - Drug Reference Chart

Quick drug reference for school communities

Substance and ways of taking	Legal status	School sanctioning		
 Caffeine Oral	Legal	Generally sanctioned , but hot coffee, iced coffee and 'Energy drinks' are in the Red Category of the DECS Right Bite Healthy Food and Drink Supply guidelines and are banned from sale in school canteens and vending machines. Bringing caffeinated products to school may be unsanctioned under a local school policy.		
 Tobacco Smoked	It is illegal for any person to sell or supply a cigarette to a person under 18 years. Smoking is banned in enclosed, public places, workplaces and shared areas in South Australia.	Use not sanctioned by any person on school grounds.		
Alcohol Oral	Supply or sale of alcohol to a person under 18 years in a public place, such as school or hotel is illegal . Possession and use for young people in a school is illegal .	Use not sanctioned by students at school functions. Use not sanctioned by staff, even out of hours, whilst holding duty of care responsibilities. School staff must utilise harm minimisation principles as an OHSW obligation if consuming alcohol whilst students are not present, eg staff Friday night drinks.		
 Over the counter /analgesics (eg Panadol, Disprin) Oral	Legal, but not to be supplied to students by other students.	Sanctioned in accordance with DECS Health Support Planning Guidelines. School staff should store and supervise only that medication which has been prescribed by a doctor for a student for a specified period of time, and is used according to the agreed plan.		
Prescribed medication (eg Insulin, Ritain, asthma medication) Injection/Oral	Legal if prescribed by a doctor. Illegal for any person to supply/distribute/sell prescription medication which has not been prescribed for that person. Police need to be advised.			
Volatile substances (eg whipped cream dispensers, petrol, sprays/toluenel nitrous oxide Inhalation	Controlled Substances Act states it is illegal for a person to sell or supply a volatile substance if they suspect it will be inhaled or supplied to someone else who will inhale it.	Sanctioned only if used appropriately and within the law. Must be securely and appropriately stored.		
Illicit drugs—police must be advised. Unsanctioned by schools				
Cannabis Marijuana Oral/Smoking	Hallucinogens Magic mushrooms Oral	Meth/Amphetamines Speed, Ecstasy, Ice Snorting/Injecting Oral/Anally	Heroin Oral Smoking	Cocaine Snorting, Injecting Oral/Anally
 Drug paraphernalia	Legal status	School sanctioning		
Smoking paraphernalia May be home-made as a pipe or empty plastic bottle with short hose attachment, or may be metal and dismantled into smaller parts.	Not illegal to have an unused pipe with no intent to use. Illegal to have an instrument which has been used or with intent to use for smoking cannabis. Police need to be advised.	Unsanctioned.		
Needles/syringes	A syringe or needle is not illegal .	Sanctioned only for medical use under agreed medication management plan. Unsanctioned for any other purpose.		
 Unknown substance	Possibly illegal. Needs to be referred to police for identification.	Possibly unsanctioned.		

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DECS Drug Strategy, Intervention Matters (2011)

APPENDIX B - Drug Related Incident Procedural Guidelines

Incident	Students suspected of possessing, distributing or using a drug or drug paraphernalia, including being drug affected.			
Initial procedures for staff at incident – all drugs	<p>Calmly but firmly intervene, ensuring the safety and health of student/s and particularly utilising WH&S principles in caring for yourself.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider calling on additional staff. If intervening staff member is not a teacher, a teacher should be called to the scene 2. Assess health and safety of all student/s involved e.g. the need for an emergency response (Phone 000). 3. Inform student/s of concerns, seek cooperation and outline initial procedures which might follow. 4. Note details of incident throughout and record when practical – who, what, when and where. 5. Safely, collect any suspected drugs and drug paraphernalia, awaiting police collection 6. Escort student/s to Headmaster, Head of Senior School, Head of Junior School or delegate and hand over with details of incident and any collected materials 7. Attend to other students involved. 			
Headmaster / Head of Senior School / Head of Junior School / delegate management of incident	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Continue to monitor student safety. 9. Throughout, inform student/s of the proceedings, outlining the principles of natural justice as they apply to the situation. 10. Secure evidence. 11. Make initial assessment of seriousness of incident, mindful at all times of the need for procedural fairness. Collect information, document, seek advice, as appropriate (See below) 12. Determine the next level of involvement. 			
	13. Suspected use/procession/distribution of illegal substances, drug paraphernalia or unidentified substance.	Suspected use / possession / distribution of legal substance but illegal behaviour (e.g. alcohol).	Suspected use/possession/distribution of legal substance but unsanctioned behaviour.	No substance, no confession of drug use but unusual behaviour suggests drug use.
	14. Contact police to investigate/identify.	Use professional judgement to determine the need to contact police for advice, clarification or notification.	Use professional judgement to determine if there is need to inform police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat the student as unwell, implementing the school's processes for managing unwell students. • Contact parents/caregivers to collect unwell student.
Following actions, determining consequences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Contact parents. If police are involved, be guided by them in this matter. 16. Determine other participants for a school-based response: student advocate when not a parent and procedural observer. Ensure all participants understand proceedings. 17. Consider whether mandatory reporting is required. 18. Report incident through Incident Report Form. 19. Apply processes and consequences as per School's behaviour and/or drug policy. Consider responses which are educative, punitive and deterrent to support student wellbeing and engagement in learning. Keep stakeholders informed. 20. Where necessary, establish and implement student intervention plans, mindful of wellbeing. 21. Debrief staff and review school policy 			

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Adapted from - DECS Drug Strategy, Intervention Matters (2011)