



Drug Policy

All sections of this Policy apply to:

- students at school, at school-related functions and activities, travelling to and from school, and whilst in school uniform.
- boarders whilst under the School's duty of care.
- parents and visitors at school-related functions and on campus.
- staff whilst exercising their normal duty of care.

These terms of application should be borne in mind as the Policy is read.

1. Purpose

The School can play a positive role in promoting healthy lifestyles.

This policy:

- aims to meet the needs and promote the welfare of each student.
- is designed to provide consistent guidance to the School and its community in relation to issues arising from the use of legal and illegal drugs.
- has been developed by students, parents and staff representatives.
- is part of the overall commitment to student well-being.
- ensures that positive support is not left to chance.
- will be regularly reviewed.

2. School Position

Tobacco

The School recognises the health issues associated with tobacco use and consequently:

- both campuses are smoke-free zones.
- students are not permitted to smoke.

- visitors and staff are not permitted to smoke on School grounds.
- adults are requested to refrain from smoking whilst at off-campus School functions.

Alcohol

The School recognises that alcohol abuse is a major problem and hence:

- it encourages social activities without an emphasis on alcohol consumption.
- does not permit students to use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol.
- expects teachers and other adults to provide a responsible example in the use of alcohol whilst taking care of students.

This policy allows alcohol in particular places on School premises, on specified occasions and only after permission has been obtained from the Headmaster. Non-alcoholic drinks will always be available on such occasions.

Medications

In the interests of the health of the School community the inappropriate use of prescribed and over-the-counter medication is prohibited.

Parents are requested to:

- ensure that their children know how to use their own medications responsibly.
- provide the School with information, which will be kept confidential to relevant staff, where a student has a long-term condition that requires specialised medication.
- advise the school of any changes to medication which may influence the student's activity, behaviour or performance at school.

Students are only to carry enough medication for personal use for one day. On no account should students share medication. For legal reasons, staff cannot dispense over-the-counter medications.

Where students require support in taking their prescription medications, parents should approach Matron or relevant staff, including those involved in Outdoor Education, sport or other activities.

Other Drugs

The School prohibits the:

- use, possession or sale of illegal drugs such as marijuana.

- inappropriate use of solvents and other chemical agents.
- possession of drug-related objects not specified as medically required on medical records.
- inappropriate use of drugs in sport.

3. Education

For students:

All students will participate in an education programme which:

- addresses the broad spectrum of health issues.
- is regular and ongoing.
- provides relevant, factual and up-to-date information.
- assists students to clarify attitudes and values.
- develops skills which can help students to prevent / reduce the incidence of drug-related harm.
- provides students with opportunities to explore a wide range of issues relating to drugs.

In order to deliver a relevant and effective education programme, the School recognises the need for:

- it to be delivered by class teachers or teachers in Health Education, all of whom possess teaching expertise.
- ongoing professional development.
- the provision of adequate resources.

For Parents:

The School will assist parents to understand drug-related issues by the provision of information and resources, conducting regular information sessions and providing opportunities for parent participation in appropriate parts of the education programme.

4. Support for individuals, parents, groups

Students, parents and staff wishing to obtain information, assistance or counselling can do so through:

- any of the various members of staff.
- referral to outside agencies through the relevant Grade Co-ordinator or House Head.

Specifically:

- staff who identify students they believe may benefit from referral will liaise with the student and parents.
- students may seek referral directly through the Chaplain, Grade Co-ordinator, House Head, Pastoral Dean, Head of Campus or the Headmaster.
- students may feel more comfortable in first approaching a peer supporter, any teacher, class teacher, tutor or any School visitor with expertise in this area.

Referrals through School staff will take place after discussions with parents.

5. School responses to drug related incidents

The School opposes the inappropriate use of legal drugs and the use of illegal drugs and views such usage seriously. As such, drug-related incidents will be handled in a consistent, positive and supportive way in the best interests of the individuals concerned and the School as a whole.

Immediate Action Plan:

Drug-Related Incident

When an illicit or unsanctioned drug is found with a student or a student is found apparently affected by drug use, or there is evidence of such, the following steps will be followed:

Staff will:

- attend to the immediate health and safety needs of the student(s) or situation
- send for assistance: first aid officer and Pastoral Dean
- call an ambulance or provide first aid with trained staff
- not leave student(s) unattended unless absolutely necessary
- if there is no apparent health and safety risk involved, escort the student(s) to the

Pastoral Dean

From this point responsibility for action lies with Senior Management Staff who will:

- inform parents / guardians of student(s) of the circumstances
- secure and label the substance, if found, with an adult witness present *
- arrange disposal of the substance *

- if the substance is an unsanctioned drug (alcohol, cigarettes, prescription drugs), contact parents / guardians of student(s) and offer the option of removing the substance from the school, if deemed appropriate
 - seek witnesses and record all details of the incident, including actions taken
 - implement the School's counselling and disciplinary procedures, with appropriate support in place for the student(s) and staff involved
- * The School is party to a Memorandum of Understanding with Tasmania Police and is bound by this in some aspects of its responses. Copies of this memorandum are available from the Reception, Library and Health Education room.

Disciplinary Response

The "disciplinary" response to drug related issues will be determined by the nature and scope of the offence, the reaction of students involved, the time frame between offences and the impact upon others.