

Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Policy



Section

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Welfare

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Executive
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This policy should be read in conjunction with: Student Code of Conduct.

1. POSITION STATEMENT

At St Mark's, the safety of our students is paramount. The presence or use of non-prescription drugs, and sometimes even prescription drugs, on the School campus jeopardises the safety of our students.

Students are not permitted to smoke, drink alcohol or take illegal drugs on school premises, on any School organised outings, events or camps, and any places out of school, including on social media, when they are wearing School uniform or may be identified as students of St Mark's. Students are also not permitted to have cigarettes (including e-cigarettes), alcohol or illegal drugs in their possession at these times.

This School takes a serious view of the use of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs and has adopted a policy that attempts to discourage the possession and use of any drug by students.

2. RATIONALE

The School provides an appropriate curriculum to help students gain and consider information about social issues such as the use of alcohol and other drugs, and to assist them to develop skills required for immediate and future decision-making. Students are provided with opportunities to discuss honestly and openly current societal topics in an educational environment. It is important, however, that St Mark's takes a stand on issues of drug use that is aligned with our values and makes this clear to the students.

In the process of learning how to make decisions, some individuals may make errors in judgement. Poor decision-making regarding the use of drugs, however, may have serious consequences.

The law in Western Australia regarding use of illegal drugs is clear, and penalties are provided for offenders in society. Members of the School community are subject to these laws on School grounds as well as off, and members of the School community have the same responsibility as every other citizen to uphold the law.

The community at large expects that a school will convey by its policies, actions and teachings that it does not in any way encourage or condone drug use.

3. INCIDENCES OF DRUG USE

- Each instance will be considered individually and independently according to the given set of circumstances at the time.
- Wherever possible, the health and welfare of the individual student/s involved will be considered in the context of the School environment and its support services.

- c) The safety of students is of paramount importance.
- d) In each instance the Principal, in consultation with other appropriate School leaders, will determine the appropriate action to be taken, which support services are to be called upon, and who is to be informed.

3.1 Cigarettes

Students found smoking, in possession of nicotine cigarettes or supplying nicotine cigarettes to other students will be liable to a range of sanctions, dependent on the circumstances and whether or not it is a repeated offence. Vaping, the inhaling of a vapor created by an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or other vaping device, will be treated in the same manner as smoking nicotine cigarettes.

These sanctions may include:

- a) Informing parents.
- b) An appropriate educational program.
- c) Internal or external suspension.
- d) Expulsion if very serious or deemed appropriate by the Principal.

3.2 Alcohol

Students found drinking, in possession of alcohol or supplying alcohol to other students will be liable to a range of sanctions, dependent on the circumstances and whether or not it is a repeated offence.

These sanctions may include:

- a) Informing parents.
- b) An appropriate educational program.
- c) Internal or external suspension.
- d) Referral to outside agency.
- e) Expulsion if very serious or deemed appropriate by the Principal.

3.3 Illegal Drugs

The possession of illegal drugs is an offence against the law. The School will view the use, possession or supply of illegal drugs by students as a severe matter.

Students found using, in possession of, or supplying illegal drugs to other students will be liable to a range of sanctions, dependent on the circumstances.

These sanctions may include:

- a) Informing parents - any student found using, or in possession of illegal drugs, will be suspended and parents informed immediately.
- b) An appropriate educational program - the student may have to undergo in-School counselling and/or referral to an outside agency.
- c) Internal or external suspension.
- d) Referral to outside agency - Police involvement will occur if students are deemed to be in possession of drugs or dealing in drugs.
- e) Expulsion – use of illegal drugs may result in expulsion. Any student supplying drugs to other students will be expelled.

If the Principal considers that expulsion of a student is an appropriate consequence, the procedure outlined in the Anglican School Commission's 'Enrolment and Attendance Policy and Procedures' will be followed.

Specifically, this states that:

The Principal must not cancel a student's enrolment without first:

- a) Giving written notice of the proposed cancellation, and reason for it, to the parents or guardian or students (if over 17).
- b) Giving reasonable opportunity to show why the enrolment should not be cancelled.

Students who are in the company of others while they use drugs at school may be subject to the same sanctions. Students should remove themselves from any such situation.

Decisions about consequences resulting from the use of cigarettes (or e-cigarettes), alcohol or other drugs will be at the Principal's discretion.

Version Management

Version	Date Published	Changes Made	Author of Changes
1	June 2018	Registration	Teresa Gastevich
2	October 2019	Clarity around illegal drugs and reference to ASC 'Enrolment and Attendance Policy and Procedures'.	Steven Davies, Principal
3	May 2020	Formatting; addition of wording: <i>"This policy should be read in conjunction with."</i>	P Sinclair
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