

## Student Drug and Alcohol Policy

### Purpose

Central to all College activities are our Values of Spirituality, Respect, Integrity and Excellence, and our belief in empowering all young people to be their best selves. In a supportive environment, whilst being conscious of the rights of others, the College aims to provide a learning environment for all students that is free of prohibited, non-medical drugs. Drug use is a complex issue and it is recognised that the role of the College in the prevention of drug use requires a comprehensive approach.

Furthermore, the College recognises that Drug use by students increases the risk of injury to the students themselves and to others, as well as impairing the ability of students to respond appropriately in an emergency. Swan Christian College is committed to providing a safe environment for all our students, staff and broader community. When concerns about drug use arise in the College community arise, we will follow the steps set out in this Policy to determine what actions are appropriate to maintain a safe environment. The Drug and Alcohol Policy reflects the desire for a learning environment for all students that is free of prohibited, non-medical drugs and upholds our commitment to Spirituality, Respect, Integrity and Excellence, and in the way that we treat each other and ourselves.

This policy seeks to support and maintain a healthy school environment in which the welfare of all College community members is paramount. It identifies the role of the College in the prevention of drug related problems and documents the College's agreed position on, and accepted procedures for, dealing with drug related incidents and problems.

### Scope

For the purposes of this policy a drug shall be defined as: "Any substance, with the exception of food and water, which when taken into the body alters its function physically and/or psychologically".

This definition includes all drugs (e.g. analgesics, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, amphetamines). Solvents (also called volatile substances e.g. glue and petrol sniffing), while not classified as drugs, are included in this Alcohol and Drug policy. Pharmaceutical products, both prescription and over the counter products are included in the Swan Christian College Student Drug and Alcohol Policy.

This Policy includes all students of the College, while on campus or at any function, excursion, camp or tour organised by the College or in which the student participates as a representative of the College, including times at which students are in College uniform.

While in the care of the College, or when acting as representatives of the College, students may not have in their possession, supply, use, or be under the influence of any drug. Students are not to possess drug related equipment (such as. syringes, bongs, pipes), except in the case of lawful medical use (e.g. the use of syringes by a student with diabetes to administer insulin, as long as written parental permission has been provided) or to consume personal medication without prior written parental permission and the consent of the College. Medication may only be taken by the student for whom it was prescribed. Students who breach this Policy will be expected and encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, as well as for the detrimental effects to the College community.

## **A Three-Point Strategy**

The Swan Christian College Drug and Alcohol Policy is based on a three-point strategy comprising Education, Student Re-engagement and Rehabilitation and Communication and Promotion.

### **1. Education**

Students at Swan Christian College are offered a comprehensive drug education program. The program consists of information, attitude clarification and skill development appropriate to the age of the students. Coupled with this, special events are held throughout the College year to promote a responsible approach to alcohol and drugs.

Students in Kindergarten to Year 6 (our Junior School) are exposed to drug education through the experiences provided by their classroom teacher.

All students in Years 7 to 10 participate in Health Education lessons. These lessons focus not only on the factual information about drugs but also on decision making and responsible approach to alcohol and drugs. Students look at the reasons behind drug use and consider how they, as individuals or as a community, can deal with some of these issues.

All students in the Senior School (particularly those in Years 9-12) will have the opportunity to be involved in less formal education about drugs, which may include guest speakers.

For all students, the aim of our drug education programme is to reinforce the non-use of drugs. This is the primary form of harm reduction adopted by the College. Other harm reduction strategies are included when appropriate to meet the needs of the students and the College community. For example, students may learn about 'standard drinks', first aid strategies or the factors affecting alcohol absorption.

Parent education is conducted in the areas of drug awareness, communication and relationship building, as well as prevention and intervention strategies.

Staff have the opportunity to participate in various professional development sessions relating to drug education.

### **2. Student Re-engagement and Rehabilitation**

The best intervention procedure is designed to address drug use incidents in a way that is in the best interests of all parties, while also conforming to legal requirements. As a Christian College, the well-being of every student is at the heart of all that we do. Compassion and forgiveness are central to the teachings of Christ.

When necessary, the College, the student and the student's parents must collaborate to provide the appropriate rehabilitation strategy. This agreement will usually include avoidance of drugs and people involved with drugs, as well as regular counselling. It may involve the Principal, Heads of School, Dean of Year, Head of House, Head of Christian Culture, Chaplain, College Psychologist, and, when required, outside counsellors.

Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, solvents and any non-medical drugs while on the College campus, on a College activity (i.e. camp, excursion or student ball) or in College uniform (to and from school) is strictly prohibited. Medication may only be taken by the student for whom it was prescribed. Students who breach this Policy will be expected and encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, as well as for the detrimental effects to the College community.

More specifically, the regulations outlined below apply. These reflect community laws relating to drug use, and health and safety regulations for the work and educational environment.

The College does not permit students on the College campus, on a College activity or in College uniform:

- to possess or consume tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, solvents or other prohibited drugs
- to possess drug related equipment (such as. syringes, bongs, pipes), except in the case of lawful medical use, e.g. the use of syringes by a student with diabetes to administer insulin, as long as written parental permission has been provided.
- to consume personal medication without prior written parental permission and the consent of the College.

Positive re-engagement put in place for students in breach of this Policy will be influenced by the past history of the student at the College and the student's willingness to work toward rehabilitation. Consequences for breaching this Policy may include some or all of the following:

- relevant College and/or community service
- exclusion from College events
- in school suspension
- suspension from the College
- exclusion from the College (an immediate consequence of supplying drugs).

The Principal reserves the right to conduct an official bag and/or locker search where there is sufficient suspicion that a student is in possession of drugs. This search will be conducted under the conditions set out in Appendix B of this document. Should the Principal deem that a student might be in possession of drugs on their person, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be contacted. The Police may be notified and involved as appropriate.

### **3. Respectful Communication**

The College does not inform the wider College community that students have been involved in incidents concerning drugs or any other matter. Only the essential elements of incidents are given to students and teachers. This is consistent with its approach to all Student well-being matters and the principles of respectful communication. Where drugs are involved, the ramifications for the individual students and their families are usually quite serious. The privacy of the individuals involved is respected and the College will make no public comment about the matter.

### **Communication and Promotion**

It is essential that the details and intention of the Policy be clearly communicated with all members of the College community, especially students, parents and staff. The Policy will be made available to all students, parents and staff as follows.

#### **Students**

Students will be made aware of the Policy through their health education classes. This will involve the students learning about the impact of the Policy as well as the ethos behind the Policy.

#### **Parents**

Parents will have the opportunity to learn about the Policy at parent information evenings and courses.

#### **Staff**

Staff will learn about the Policy through professional development sessions during staff meetings. This information booklet will be available to all staff and included in the new staff information package.

## **Breach of Student Alcohol and Drug Policy**

If a student breaches this policy they may be subject to disciplinary actions, at the Principal's discretion. Appendix A contains a chart detailing the College's indicative responses to any allegation or incident of drug use.

## **Appendix A**

### **Guidelines/Procedures**

Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a student on College property or at a College event, or in school uniform in a public place or in view of members of the public is in possession of tobacco, alcohol, either non-prescribed or prescribed medication for non-medical use (other than as prescribed), solvents that are being used for inhaling or illegal drugs, the Principal or delegate is entitled to carry out all, or any of the following steps they consider reasonable and necessary to enforce this policy and to maintain the wellbeing of the College community and general public.

### **Procedures**

1. If, in the reasonable opinion of the Principal, a student's health may be affected by the drug in question, the Principal shall be entitled to seek medical advice and if they believe it necessary, send a student for medical treatment.
2. Notify the relevant parents/legal guardians.
3. Conduct a search of the student's locker and personal effects and seize any suspected banned or illegal items. This search will be conducted under the conditions outlined in Appendix B of this policy.
4. All drugs and items seized must be sealed individually in clear sealable bags and secured in an appropriately secured space.
5. If the drugs and/or associated items are located, immediately notify the police and the CEO of SCEA where appropriate.
6. Hold a meeting with the parents to discuss appropriate action.
7. The student will be required to attend an interview with the Principal prior to the student's re-admission to the College on such conditions as the Principal decides. One condition may be the requirement for the student to attend a preventative program and/or counselling.

### **Consequences**

The opportunity for positive re-engagement for students in breach of this Policy will be influenced by the history of the student at the College and the student's willingness to work toward rehabilitation. Consequences for breaching this Policy may include some or all of the following:

- Relevant College and/or community service.
- Exclusion from College events.
- In school suspension.
- Suspension from the College.
- Exclusion from the College (an immediate consequence of supplying drugs).

### **Students under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs**

Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a student on College property or at a College event or in school uniform in a public place or in view of members of the public is under the influence of:

- alcohol
- either non-prescribed or prescribed medication for non-medical use (other than as prescribed)
- solvents
- illegal drugs

The Principal or delegate shall be entitled to carry out any or all of the following steps they consider reasonable and necessary to enforce this policy and to secure the wellbeing of members of the College community and general public.

### **Procedures**

1. If, in the reasonable opinion of the Principal, a student's health may be affected by the drug in question, the Principal shall be entitled to seek medical advice and if they believe it necessary, send a student for medical treatment.
2. Notify the relevant parents/legal guardians.
3. Conduct a search of the student's locker and personal effects and seize any suspected banned or illegal items. This search will be conducted under the conditions outlined in Appendix B of this policy.
4. All drugs and items seized must be sealed individually in clear sealable bags and secured in an appropriately secured space.
5. If the drugs and/or associated items are located, immediately notify the police and the CEO of SCEA where appropriate.
6. Hold a meeting with the parents to discuss appropriate action.
7. The student will be required to attend an interview with the Principal prior to the student's re-admission to the College on such conditions as the Principal decides. One condition may be the requirement for the student to attend a preventative program and/or counselling.

### **Consequences**

Likely exclusion. It should be noted that even the act of offering to supply an illegal drug or a prescribed drug for non-medical purposes is seen by police as a serious offence.

### **Distribution of Alcohol / Drugs between Students**

Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a student has been distributing drugs or alcohol on school property, at a school event or in school uniform, the Principal shall be entitled to carry out any or all of the following steps or any other steps the Principal considers reasonable and necessary to enforce this policy and to maintain wellbeing of members of the College community and general public.

### **Procedures**

1. Where the Principal reasonably believes that a student is so affected by alcohol or a drug as to require medical treatment, the Principal may treat it as a medical emergency.
2. If there are no reasonable concerns for the health of the student, the Principal will contact the student's parents/guardians and arrange for the immediate and safe departure of the student from school property or event.
3. The Principal may authorise a search of the student's locker and personal effects and seize any suspected drugs or alcohol. This search will be conducted under the conditions outlined in Appendix B of this policy.
4. Retain any drugs or alcohol seized which may be handed over to medical personnel for identification and aid in treatment of any medical condition, or to either the parents or the police if appropriate or required by law.
5. Hold a meeting with the parents to discuss appropriate action.

### **Consequences**

Likely exclusion. It should be noted that even the act of offering to supply an illegal drug or a prescribed drug for non-medical purposes is seen by police as a serious offence.

### **Distribution to a Student of Alcohol / Drugs by a Non-Student**

Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a non-student has been distributing drugs or alcohol on school property or at a school event, the Principal shall be entitled to carry out any or all of the following steps or any other steps the Principal considers

reasonable and necessary to enforce this policy and to maintain wellbeing of members of the College community and general public.

### **Procedures**

1. Have such a person removed from the School's property.
2. Seek the advice and assistance of the police.
3. Contact the parents of any student/s involved.

### **Appendix B**

- a) All staff have legal and professional responsibilities to respond to information about, and incidents involving students' use or possession of legal or illegal drugs on College property or at attendance at a school related function/event.
- b) When staff suspect or are advised that a student has used or possesses a drug, it is necessary to establish and respond to the student's health and safety status.
- c) The incident, the student(s) and the substance must be referred immediately to the Principal, or in the absence of the Principal directly to a member of the Executive Team.
- d) The Principal may report the incident to police if illegal drugs or any utensil used in connection with any illegal drug is located, as is appropriate.
- e) The Principal will identify an appropriate staff member to be responsible for managing the incident. This person will be responsible for collecting information, co-ordinating subsequent actions, maintaining written records and the debriefing of students, parents and staff involved.
- f) The Principal will advise the Deputy Principal or appropriate Head of School or the Head of Christian Culture, Chaplain or School Psychologist that an incident has occurred and nominate one of these persons as a student and family support person if required.
- g) The person nominated to manage the incident will not be the same person as the person nominated as the support person.
- h) The Principal will permit staff to inspect property belonging to the School (eg lockers, desks) without parental/guardian consent if there are reasonable grounds to suspect legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco or associated items are contained within.
- i) All searches will be undertaken discreetly taking into account the student's age and with care for the student's property.
- j) Students suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be required to undertake an appropriate medical test to determine if the suspicion is valid. It is likely the student will be suspended from the College while this takes place.
- k) All searches will be undertaken by a staff member with a witness (staff member) of the same gender as the student. The student will not be touched during the course of the search.
- l) Staff members will ask students to open other personal items themselves for inspection.

- l) Students will not be deprived permanently of confiscated property (that is property that is not permitted at College but is not illegal). Such property will be returned either directly to the student or to a parent/guardian as deemed appropriate by the Principal or their delegate.

Mr A Scott - Principal  
5 October 2017