



SCOTCH SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This policy reflects our ethos and commitment to a whole College approach to wellbeing and the promotion of positive behaviours 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 promote 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.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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 medical practitioner's prescribed regime) and 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.

PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION

The College Drug Education program aims to prevent:

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

Scotch College provides all students Year 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 Wellbeing explicit 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 and Head of Faculty Health and Physical Education and Assistant Head of Mitcham Campus.

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HARM MINIMISATION

Harm minimisation is the underpinning approach Scotch uses in drug education and this approach influences our policies and programs 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
- embed timely, developmentally appropriate drug education programs within a curriculum framework that utilizes effective pedagogy.

Aim	Scotch approach
Prevent and reduce drug related harm	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• prevention through education and creating a respectful and safe school• early intervention to prevent later harmful drug use.
Drug related incident response	includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensuring the response is well managed through a Natural Justice approach• student wellbeing is paramount• utilizing partnerships with parents/caregivers and police (when necessary)• ensuring the response does not cause any secondary harm, such as social stigmatization, reduced self-worth and associated truancy.

The following table lists the aims of harm minimization and its implications for Scotch.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Parents are engaged in our program through seminars and timely communication around drug education programs offered to students. This policy is regularly referenced as part of the College's support documentation and advice for safe partying and parent information around significant College events such as the annual Blue and Gold Formal.

PROCESS FOR INVESTIGATING AN ALLEGED INFRINGEMENT OF THIS POLICY

Scotch College treats drug and alcohol related incidents as a very serious matter. In response to any allegation regarding students and the consumption, distribution or involvement with:

- Tobacco and/or
- Alcohol and/or
- Performance Enhancing and mood altering substances
- Illicit drugs

...a designated senior member of staff will undertake a thorough investigation following natural justice processes¹. The designated senior staff are: Head of Campus, or Assistant Head of Campus, or Director of Boarding, or Director of Student Wellbeing.

At all times during an investigation three factors influence the actions to be taken by the College:

1. Safety of the students
2. Health of the student
3. School rules and effect on other students
4. Impact on the College reputation

There is a published procedure to be used by senior staff in the event of an investigation being deemed necessary.²

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS

There are varying consequences in response to the use and/or supply of drugs by a student at Scotch. These are determined at the end of the investigation and interview processes in response to an allegation about the use or supply of drugs by a student/s.

- The supply and /or use of illicit drugs may result in the student being asked to leave the College.
- The consumption of substances will likely result in a student being suspended either internally, or externally
- Students are suspended from normal class activities during any investigation
- Parents or guardian will be informed prior to formal interview processes being conducted about what has been revealed in any initial investigation.

1 SEE NOTES RE NATURAL JUSTICE PROCESS UNDER SCOTCH SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY – STAFF PROCEDURE AND INFORMATION

2 SEE ALLEGATION OF DRUG USE PROCEDURE UNDER SCOTCH SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY – STAFF PROCEDURE AND INFORMATION FOR SPECIFIC DETAIL, AND THE COLLEGE STUDENT DISCIPLINARY AND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

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.

There will be a follow up program regarding education and support for students who find themselves in breach of school rules regarding the use of drugs. 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.

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