
ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY AND RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS OF DRUG USE

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1. RATIONALE

John Wollaston Anglican Community School (the School) takes an educational and preventive approach to the use of both legal and illegal drugs by students, acknowledging that incidents of drug use on the School's premises require a standardised response.

This policy aims to contribute to a positive, healthy and caring school environment in which students can achieve their potential and develop interpersonal skills that will help them face challenges both in and out of school, now and in the future.

This policy is binding on all members of the school community while on school premises or at a school function where students are present. This includes students, staff, parents/guardians and volunteers unless previously negotiated with the Principal.

The law regarding drug abuse is clear and penalties are provided for conviction of offenders. 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 the School will convey by its actions and teachings that it does not in any way encourage or condone drug use.

2. PARAMETERS

The policy has been developed in an attempt to:

- publish guidelines and sanctions that are relevant to our school;
- address prevention, intervention and sanctions in regard to drug use; and,
- be consistent with State and Federal laws.

3. DEFINITION

For the purpose of this policy, a drug is 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, e-cigarettes, cannabis, amphetamines etc. While not classified as drugs, solvents also known as volatile substances are included in this policy, e.g. glue and petrol.

4. OBJECTIVES

- To reinforce the School's role in the prevention of drug use related issues.
- To demonstrate the School's responsiveness to an issue of community concern.
- To clarify roles, rights and responsibilities of each member of the school community, including staff, students and parents/guardians, regarding drug use problems, prevention and intervention.
- To set clear guidelines for students, staff and visitors on what are acceptable and unacceptable drug use behaviours at school.
- To ensure that school staff are not placed at risk by their actions through a clear statement of the School's legal and procedural responsibilities.
- To provide a standardised approach to an often controversial and emotional issue.

- To identify the protocols and procedures that will be followed when an incident of prohibited drug use occurs.
- To protect the welfare of the students and staff by ensuring that incidents involving drug use are addressed rationally and by ensuring confidentiality and access to counselling if necessary.
- To enable students to develop an understanding of how to achieve total health and well-being.
- To enable students to feel safe on the School's campus and at school functions held off campus.

5. PREVENTION

The School's primary business is education and a part of this process is to help students to gain and clarify information about social issues such as drug and alcohol abuse and to assist them to develop skills required for immediate and future decision making. Although the School has a **zero tolerance policy to drug use** it also recognises that students are exposed to drug issues in a variety of contexts within the broader community.

Health Education is taught following the Health and Physical Education syllabus from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) Western Australian Curriculum. Students are also provided factual knowledge, values education and skill development utilising harm reduction strategies contained within the School Drug Education and Road Aware Program (SDERA) teacher support packages available at <https://www.sdera.wa.edu.au/>

Drug education is delivered to students in the following ways:

- Primary School
 - ♦ Year 6 Health Curriculum incorporated in International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) Units of Inquiry
- Secondary School
 - ♦ Years 7 to 10 Health Education classes
 - ♦ Years 10, 11 and 12 Value Added Program (VAP) via guest speakers e.g. Leavers WA: The WA State Government Leavers Strategy is a harm minimisation response to School Leaver's celebrations <https://www.leaverswa.com.au/>.

The School recognises the sensitive nature of teaching comprehensive health and drug education programs. The program is delivered by teachers who are trained in using a balance of knowledge, attitude and skills activities to teach drug education.

As the School is responsive to community needs, the Health and Physical Education program may be modified at times so as to reflect changing community requirements.

6. INTERVENTION

The School does not permit students of all years, even if they are over the legal age, while on school premises or at a school function to:

- possess, supply or smoke tobacco, tobacco products and/or electronic cigarettes;
- consume alcoholic beverages;
- deliberately inhale solvents;
- possess drug related equipment such as syringes, bongs, pipes, etc. (Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 WA) except in cases of lawful medical use;
- possess or use prohibited drugs in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981;
- be in the company of others who are involved in the above activities.

Note: 'On school premises or at school functions' includes any time a student is travelling to and from the School or any school camp, Encounter, retreat, excursion, tour or organised function such as a disco, sleepover, School Ball, river cruise etc.

7. CONSEQUENCES

The procedures outlined below have the emotional and physical health and welfare of the students of the School as a priority whilst they are 'on school premises or at school functions' as outlined in 6. *Intervention*.

7.1 TOBACCO AND ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES (E-CIGARETTES)

Students found smoking, in possession of or supplying tobacco, tobacco products and/or electronic cigarettes to other students will be liable to a range of sanctions dependent on the circumstances and whether or not it is a repeat offence. These consequences may include:

- notification to parents/guardians (in all cases)
- community service
- educational project
- counselling
- suspension
- exclusion

7.2 ALCOHOL AND SOLVENTS

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

These sanctions may include:

- notification to parents/guardians (in all cases)
- community service
- educational project
- referral to outside agency
- suspension
- exclusion

7.3 PRESCRIPTION AND OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION

Students found supplying and/or selling prescription and/or over the counter medication to other students will be liable to a range of sanctions dependent on the circumstances and whether or not it is a repeat offence.

These sanctions may include:

- ♦ notification to parents/guardians (in all cases)
- ♦ community service
- ♦ educational project
- ♦ referral to outside agency
- ♦ suspension
- ♦ exclusion

Note: Students are not allowed to self-medicate, use prescription or over-the-counter medication, on the School campus or at any School function under any circumstances. An exception is an asthma puffer. Should a student require medication of these types on campus, the medication is to be left in the care of the Primary Receptionist or the Secondary Student Services Receptionist. Forms which specify the dose, the time for the medication to be given and the details of the prescribing doctor are to be filled in, in accordance with the School's *Health Care Policy*. The *Health Care Policy* is available to all staff via the Staff Shared drive located at J:\Staff Read Only\SCHOOL POLICIES\Current Policies\3. STW Student Welfare and all Health Care Policy forms are located at J:\Staff Read Only\STAFF FORMS\HEALTH CARE POLICY FORMS.

Should a student require medication whilst on an excursion, camp or tour, it is administered by the Teacher-in-Charge of the activity.

7.4 ILLEGAL DRUGS

The possession and/or sale of illegal drugs is an offence against the law. The School adopts a **zero tolerance policy** towards any student found supplying illegal drugs to other students and/or any student found in possession of illegal drugs. Such students will be excluded from the School. The Police and the student's parents/guardians will be notified.

8. RESPONSES TO INCIDENTS OF DRUG USE

Irrespective of the drug, in situations where a person is found under the influence of a drug, an assessment of whether medical attention is necessary should be made. If in doubt, staff should follow the School's medical emergency procedures. The School's responses to incidents of drug use assume that:

- The School has a procedure for medical emergencies.
- The School has a procedure for dealing with student behaviour management; the responses are part of the School's *Alcohol and Drug Policy and Response to Incidents of Drug Use* and procedures that have been developed in consultation with the school community.
- There are community-based agencies that can provide advice and assistance to schools;
- Upon the discovery of illegal drugs, the Principal will notify the Police as outlined in the School's *Emergency and Critical Incident Management Policy* and the Anglican Schools Commission (ASC) *Reporting Critical Incidents in ASC Schools in WA Policy*.
- The parents/guardians of children involved in drug use incidents will be consulted as soon as practicable.
- Communication with staff, students and the community regarding the outcomes of drug use incidents will be handled sensitively. Confidentiality will be maintained.

9. RELATED POLICIES

- *Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures Secondary School*
- *Emergency and Critical Incident Management Policy*
- *Health Care Policy*
- *Promoting Positive Behaviours: Policy and Procedures Primary School*
- *Reporting Critical Incidents in ASC Schools in WA (ASC)*

10. FURTHER INFORMATION

- Alcohol and Drug Foundation <https://adf.org.au/>
- Department of Health <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/alcohol/about-alcohol/how-much-alcohol-is-safe-to-drink>
- Drug and Alcohol Youth Service <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/about-us/our-services/next-step-drug-and-alcohol-services/drug-and-alcohol-youth-service-days/>
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australian Alcohol Guidelines <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/alcohol>
- School Drug Education and Road Aware <https://www.sdera.wa.edu.au/>