



Drug and Alcohol Policy

CONTEXT STATEMENT

Samaritan College acknowledges a duty of care and a responsibility to create and maintain a safe, healthy, work and educational environment for all students, staff and visitors. The College recognises the possession of illegal drugs; the sale and distribution of illegal drugs; the illegal possession and/or consumption of legal drugs including tobacco and alcohol by a minor is illegal in Australia; as well as the inappropriate use of some prescription medications can affect and impair the ability to function in a safe manner. The College acknowledges the right of students, staff and visitors to work and learn in a safe, enjoyable environment.

UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS, PHILOSOPHY & RATIONALE

We at Samaritan College acknowledge:

- All students, staff and visitors have the right to a safe school environment, which is free of illegal drugs and the inappropriate use of prescription medications, tobacco and alcohol;
- The College has an educational role to increase student and staff awareness about the legal and health-related consequences of the possession of illegal drug and the effects of illegal drug usage; as well as the excessive effects of irresponsible use of legal drugs and alcohol;
- Students, staff and visitors should be encouraged to report all suspected and identified incidents of illegal drug possession/usage, illegal possession/consumption of alcohol and the inappropriate use of prescription and pharmaceutical medications and alcohol. Where appropriate, confidentiality around the reporting will be maintained.

As a consequence, illegal drug possession/usage, illegal possession and/or consumption of alcohol by a minor and the inappropriate use of prescription medications, alcohol and tobacco will not be tolerated.

PURPOSES / AIMS

Through the application of this policy, Samaritan College will:

- Promote within the College a learning environment free from illegal drug and alcohol abuse;
- Provide educational opportunities for students to learn about harm minimisation and the responsible use of prescription and non-prescription drugs, alcohol and tobacco;
- Ensure guidelines and procedures are followed.

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURE

In support of this policy Samaritan College will:

- Make explicit to its community that irrespective of age, the College does not condone or tolerate the use of illegal drugs and/or the consumption or serving of alcohol by students at school or at school events and functions;
- Inform all students, parents and staff of the procedures and possible consequences of suspected and/or identified incidents of illegal drug possession/usage, illegal possession/consumption of alcohol by a minor and the inappropriate use of prescription medications, alcohol and tobacco;
- Provide resources to support class activities which educate students about personal responsibility, harm minimisation and appropriate action against drug problems;

- Take necessary precautionary actions in situations where there is a higher potential for drug and alcohol abuse, (e.g. out of class and/or at school organised activities), to ensure these risks are minimised;
- Provide drug & alcohol counselling as required.

The Principal will:

- Be responsible for the overall implementation of the Drug and Alcohol Policy and procedures;
- Take action to ensure the safety of all those affected, including if necessary:
 - Removal of the individuals from the classroom, College grounds or organised activity;
 - Disallowing participation in class activities;
 - Suspension or cancellation of enrolment.
- Where an individual's behaviour leads to the conclusion that their capacity to function effectively is impaired by the consumption of drugs and/or alcohol:
 - Request Police to investigate suspected illegal behaviour relating to drug and alcohol usage, on College grounds and/or off campus activities;
 - Implement Policy 28 Fitness for work (staff only)
<http://www.cshwsa.org.au/procedures/>
 - Inform parents of students involved in breaches of the Drug and Alcohol Policy;
 - Refer students to qualified counselling.

The Staff will:

- Raise student awareness of the dangers of associate with the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco and inappropriate use of prescription medications;
- Deliver education regarding harm minimisation;
- Ensure students understand the school guidelines on the Drug and Alcohol Policy, implementation and also model appropriate behaviour;
- Provide students with information regarding access to qualified counselling services where necessary;
- Apply consistent measures to help students follow the guidelines, in keeping with the College's Drug and Alcohol Policy;
- Model a responsible and legal approach to drug and alcohol laws, including the legal obligations not to drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- Report to the Principal breaches of the College's Drug and Alcohol Policy;
- Report to the Principal all suspected and identified incidents of illegal drug possession/usage/dealing or procuring and the inappropriate use of prescription and pharmaceutical medications and alcohol, while associated with the College;
- Respect dignity and privacy of child/children involved.

The Students will:

- Participate in teaching and learning activities which deepen their knowledge and understanding of the risks of drug and alcohol use and the effectiveness of harm minimisation strategies;
- Accept they have personal responsibility for their actions, behaviour and wellbeing;
- Be responsible for following the College's Drug and Alcohol Policy while attending school, school associated functions and while wearing school uniform within the community including while representing the College at any given time;
- Report to a staff member of the College all suspected and identified incidents of illegal drug possession/usage/dealing and procuring, and the inappropriate use of prescription and pharmaceutical medications and alcohol, while associated with the College.

The Parents/Caregivers will:

- Undertake to support the College by ensuring their child is following the guidelines according to the drug and alcohol policy;
- Be encouraged to model a responsible and legal approach to drug and alcohol use as per federal and state laws;

The College Board will:

- Participate in the development and review of this policy.

BASES OF DISCRETION

- In the event of a breach of this policy, decisions made by the Principals will be as a result of consultation with all necessary parties and with consideration for the circumstances and the results of a full College and/or Police investigation.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- [Samaritan College Behaviour Education and Personal Responsibility Policy](#)
- [Uniform, Procedures and Expectations document](#)
- [Samaritan College Retreats, Camps and Excursions Policy](#)
- Samaritan College Student Diary
- Policy 28 Fitness for Work <http://www.cshwsa.org.au/procedures/>
- [SACCS Duty of Care Policy 2014](#)
- Samaritan College Human Development Programs
- [The School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project \(SHAHRP\)](#)
- [Rethinking Drinking Program](#)
- [Positive Choices Teacher Resources](#)
- [Intervention Matters \(2011\)](#)
- [Australian Curriculum Health and Physical Education F - 10](#)
- [Cannabis & Consequences II](#) (NCPIC Resources)
- SA Health [Smoking, the rules and regulations](#) & [The risks of smoking](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#)
- <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/phd-pub-illicit-tfwi5-cnt.htm>

ADMINISTRATION

This policy will be reviewed triennially by the College unless otherwise required.

Signed: _____

Principal

Chair of College Board

Date: _____

Ratified and Implemented

Review Date: September 2022