



# **DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING POLICY**

**EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 2015**

## **RATIONALE**

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 use and abuse, and to assist them to develop skills required for immediate and future decision making.

It is critical at this time when individuals are being required to make decisions about a whole range of behaviours which affect their personal health and well-being, that they learn how to make decisions on matters related to issues such as the use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. It is important to provide opportunities for people to discuss social (including controversial) topics, in an educational climate without feeling that they will be misunderstood or reprimanded for their honesty in discussing their values or behaviours, provided that such discussions do not condone, encourage or facilitate any illegal activities. It is also important that St James' Anglican School takes a stand on values and make this clear to the students.

In the process of learning how to make decisions, some individuals will make errors in judgement. This is a normal developmental process. A school, despite these errors, can accept the person without condoning the behaviour and still create an atmosphere of understanding which the school can use as an opportunity for learning.

Whatever individuals may think or feel, 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 a school will convey by its actions and teachings that it does not in any way encourage or condone drug abuse.



## POLICY

St James' Anglican School takes a serious view of use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs and has adopted a policy which aims to counter the possession and abuse of any drug by students.

Students, regardless of age, are not permitted to smoke, drink alcohol or take illegal drugs on school premises, on any school organised outings, including excursions, socials, end of year dinners, camps and any places out of school when they are wearing school uniform. Students are also not permitted to have cigarettes, alcohol or illegal drugs in their possession at these times.

St James' Anglican School and its staff will model appropriate behaviour concerning alcohol, drug and cigarette use when attending a school function or representing the school.

## PROCEDURE

### 1. Alcohol consumption at various functions

#### 1.1 Social and fundraising occasions

Consumption of alcohol may be permitted by the Principal on social and fundraising occasions involving staff and parents provided that:

- The function is not during normal school hours
- During the planning phase the views of parents around the provision of alcohol is sought
- The requirement for a liquor licence or RSA (responsible serving of alcohol) training is ascertained
- The Business Manager is informed of and approves the provision of alcohol at the said function
- Parents are advised in advance that alcohol will be offered and that students who are not supervised by a parent or responsible adult cannot attend
- Students who are present with their parents are the responsibility of their parents
- Students without parent or responsible adult supervision are not permitted to attend
- The Principal is ultimately responsible and must give approval for alcohol to be offered.



## 1.2 Staff functions

Staff functions organised by St James' Anglican School which involve the drinking of alcohol (may include such things as "Friday night drinks", Christmas parties, social functions etc.) require consideration. At any **staff function**, there is always a need to ensure responsible serving of alcohol.

## 1.3 Student-focussed functions

Student-focussed functions/events must not provide alcohol.

## 2. Consequences for Students

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 involved will be considered in the context of the school environment and its support services.

In each instance the Principal, in consultation with other senior staff, will determine the appropriate action to be taken, which support services are to be called upon, and who is to be informed.

### 2.1 Cigarettes

Students found smoking, in possession of cigarettes or supplying 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.

Sanctions will include:

- Informing parents
- Loss of Good Standing
- Internal or External Suspension
- Expulsion if very serious or repeated offence

### 2.2 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.

Sanctions will include:

- Informing parents
- Loss of Good Standing
- Internal or External Suspension
- Referral to outside agency
- Expulsion if very serious or repeated offence



### 2.3 Illegal Drugs

The possession of illegal drugs is an offence against the law. St James' Anglican School will view the possession or supplying of drugs by students as a very serious matter.

Any student found in possession of drugs will be suspended and parents informed immediately. The student will have to undergo in-school counselling and/or referral to an outside agency if there is addiction to the drug. A repeated offence will result in expulsion. Any student supplying drugs to other students will be expelled. Automatic Police involvement will occur if students are deemed to be in possession of drugs or dealing in drugs.