

## Student Drug and Alcohol Policy

### Purpose

Perth College aims to provide a healthy, safe, supportive and nurturing environment for students. The effects of drug use on the individual, the family and community are evident in our society and associated problems are often of a most serious nature. The possession, use, or supply of drugs including alcohol is taken very seriously and the School will respond in a manner which protects the safety and wellbeing of its students.

### 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 legal and illegal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes including vaping, cannabis, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, solvents and others. This policy does not apply to the use of substances under medical prescription whilst used as prescribed.

Perth College educates students about drug issues and the dangers of drug use and abuse. The Health Education Program is conducted by teachers or external presenters who are appropriately trained and incorporates a combination of factual information, attitude and values clarification and decision-making skills.

### Expectations

The following are a list of expectations Perth College has with regards to drugs and alcohol:

- Perth College is a smoke free area and smoking by staff, students or visitors is not permitted.
- The possession, supply and consumption of any illegal drug is not permitted. This can include prescription drugs when supplied to a person other than the intended patient, rendering their possession illegal.
- Students including those over the age of 18 are not to supply drugs or alcohol at any time.
- Alcohol can only be consumed on School property or at School events by people who are over 18 years of age. Authorised functions and events must have the prior approval of the Principal. Students, including those over 18 years of age, are not permitted to possess or consume alcohol on School property or at any School function or School sponsored occasion.

- Students including those over the age of 18 are never to consume alcohol, partake in tobacco, cannabis or any other drugs whilst wearing their School uniform, nor should they be in licenced premises in their School uniform.
- If a student is suspected of having drugs or alcohol in their possession, their locker and/or belongings will be searched by Perth College staff.

Perth College does not permit students, including those over 18 years of age, while on School premises, at or travelling to or from any School function or School sponsored occasion to:

- possess, supply, trade or smoke tobacco products or vaping products;
- possess, supply, trade or consume alcoholic beverages;
- inhale solvents deliberately;
- possess, supply or trade drug-related equipment such as syringes, bongs, pipes, etc.
- possess, supply or trade or use prohibited drugs in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981; and/or
- supply or trade legal drugs or possess legal drugs.

Sanctions will be applied to students who are found to have drugs or alcohol in their possession or attempt to influence others in illegal behaviours.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all students.

### **Associated Policies and Procedures**

Administration of Medication Policy

Excursions Policy and Procedures

Management of Medical Conditions

Student Behaviour Management Policy

Student Bullying and Harassment Policy

Smoking Policy

### **Relevant Legislation and Authority**

Misuse of Drugs Act 1981

Medicines and Poisons Act 2014 (WA)

Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984

Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996

# **Student Drug and Alcohol Procedures**

## **Students Affected by Drugs or Alcohol**

In the event of a student believed to be under the influence of alcohol or a drug it is recommended that an immediate assessment of the condition of the student should be made by the Health Centre staff or a Doctor. If necessary, first aid should be administered. The School will attempt to notify parents before any referral for medical attention, however, this is not always possible and therefore contact will be made as soon as possible following referral.

## **Sanctions**

The School regards student possession, use and or/distribution of drugs or alcohol as serious. Sanctions available to the School include:

- informing parents or guardians;
- providing counselling;
- loss of privileges including Boarding House gating in the case of boarders;
- removal from leadership roles or other responsibilities including selection for trips and tours;
- referral to an external agency;
- notification to the WA Police;
- suspension from School;
- interview with the Principal prior to re-admission to the School; and/or
- expulsion from School.

The Principal will deal with each student on an individual basis, after the incident has been investigated and will consider the circumstances of the student and the facts available in making her decision.

## **Notification**

All contact with outside agencies in relation to any drug matter will be made only by the Principal. This includes the media and the WA Police.

## **Boarding Students**

While out on leave from the Boarding House, boarders are expected to behave in a sensible manner and make responsible choices. They should be aware that they are representing the School and need to act accordingly. Boarders should not return to the Boarding House from any leave having recently consumed alcohol, taken any other drug or in an intoxicated state. Hosts should be made aware, by parents, and the Head of Boarding, of their Duty of Care during leave periods. Parents and hosts should supervise

the boarders and know where they are at all times, as well as what activities they are involved in and whether drugs, particularly alcohol will be accessible. Role modelling to the younger boarders is of the utmost importance and anyone glorifying the fact that they have consumed alcohol or taken illegal substances, will be dealt with according to the sanctions outlined in this policy.

Boarders are prohibited from:

- bringing drugs or alcohol onto School premises, into the Boarding House or being in possession of a drug or obtaining or supplying any drug to another boarder or being impaired by a drug while under the care of the Boarding staff.
- bringing the School and/or the Boarding House into disrepute for any reason associated with drugs or alcohol, whether or not the student is in the care of the Boarding House at the time.

### **Searches**

Searches without consent: The Head of Boarding and authorised staff may search a student or a student's possessions, without their consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student has drugs or alcohol in their possession.

If staff believe a student possesses a drug or alcohol, it may be appropriate for a member of staff to carry out:

- a search of outer clothing and bags; and/or
- a search of School property, e.g. students' lockers or safes/wardrobes/desks; and/or
- a search of personal property (e.g. bag or pencil case within a locker).

Searches will be conducted in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress. Any search of a student or their possessions will be carried out in the presence of the student and another member of staff. If drugs or alcohol are found, the Principal or authorised staff member will dispose of the items or hand to the WA Police if appropriate to do so. Sanctions apply as above.