

DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING POLICY

POLICY SUMMARY

This policy should be read in conjunction with Managing Student Behaviour and the Good Standing Policy.

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 use and/or possession 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.

St James' Anglican School takes a serious view of use and abuse of tobacco, vaping, 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, vape, 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, vapes, alcohol or illegal drugs in their possession at these times.

St James' Anglican School and its staff will model appropriate behaviour concerning alcohol, vapes, 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.
- 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.



DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING POLICY

- 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 a parent or responsible adult supervision are not permitted to attend.
- The Principal is ultimately responsible and must give approval for alcohol to be offered at any school event.

1.2 Staff functions

A School function is defined as any occasion organised by the School and / or in the School's name, including balls, dances, farewells, lunches, dinners, cruises, camps, excursions, incursions, expeditions and sporting fixtures. Staff functions organised by St James' Anglican School which involve the drinking of alcohol require consideration. At any **staff function**, there is always a need to ensure the responsible serving of alcohol.

Acting inappropriately at a school function whilst under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol can result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

1.3 Student-focused functions

Student-focused functions/events must not provide alcohol. Staff need to be aware that inappropriate behaviour at a school function could result in disciplinary action including termination of employment.

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. "Vaping" – the inhaling of a vapour created by an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or other vaping device – will be treated in the same manner as smoking nicotine cigarettes.

Sanctions will include:

- Informing parents.
- Essay on the dangers of smoking.
- Internal or External Suspension.
- Loss of Good Standing for five weeks.
- Meeting with the School Counsellor.
- Expulsion if very serious or repeated offence.
- Confiscation and disposal of the remaining cigarettes / vaping device.

Students who are in the company of others while they use cigarettes (or e-cigarettes) at School may be subject to the same sanctions. Students should remove themselves from any such situation.



DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING POLICY

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. Drinking underage is an offence against the law.

Sanctions may include:

- Informing parents.
- Confiscation and disposal of the remaining alcohol.
- Essay on the dangers of alcohol.
- Internal or External Suspension.
- Loss of Good Standing for five weeks.
- Referral to the School counsellor who may determine the need for an outside agency to be involved.
- Expulsion if very serious or repeated offence.
- Others as deemed by the Principal.

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. A repeated offence will result in termination of enrolment.
- Confiscation of the drug, contact with authorities and disposal of the drug under their guidance.
- Any student supplying illegal drugs or prescription to other students will have their enrolment terminated.
- Possession use or distribution of a Class A substance will result in termination of enrolment and notification to the Police.

The Police will be notified immediately of any use, possession or distribution of drugs on school grounds. This also includes on the way to or from school and at any school events.



DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING POLICY

POLICY VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
1		
2		
3	Feb - 2025	Policy reviewed and updated with minor changes. Policy to include vaping. AngliSchools rebrand updated