

POLICY

DRUGS



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of all children and young people enrolled at Scotch College in relation to drugs, and to clarify the School's legal requirements and responsibilities.

Drugs are foreign substances introduced into the body to change its normal functioning. This policy covers the possession, use and supply of alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, marijuana, amphetamines, hallucinogens and other illegal substances, and the misuse of over-the-counter and prescribed medications by you whilst on school premises and whilst engaged in school activities.

You should only use prescribed medications responsibly while at School, and only if the School has received advice from your parents or guardians of the use of the medication.

Young people need to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs. The School, through its health and drug education programmes, has a role in helping you make such decisions by providing a safe and supportive learning environment. This includes education about the risks and effects of drugs, and developing your confidence and ability to manage situations where drugs are involved.

The School will manage issues relating to drugs in a manner consistent with its welfare and discipline policies and procedures.

TOBACCO and E-CIGARETTES

Scotch College is a non-smoking environment. Smoking and the use of E-cigarettes (vaping) on School property, while in School uniform or while participating in School activities is prohibited. You are also prohibited from being in possession of cigarettes, or the paraphernalia associated with E-cigarettes, on School property, while in School uniform or while participating in School activities.

If this rule is breached, the offending items will be confiscated, your Head of House/Form Teacher and parents/guardians notified, a sanction imposed, and an educative health intervention programme considered.

ALCOHOL

The possession or consumption of alcohol, or to be under the influence of alcohol while on School property, while in School uniform, or while participating in School activities/functions, is prohibited.

The only exception to this policy is that alcohol may be supplied to and consumed by those of you over the age of 18 as part of a meal at a School activity/function, when it has been authorised by the Principal and you are accompanied by parents/guardians with their approval? at the time. Where a School activity takes place in a private residence, the same exception applies.

If this rule is breached, any alcoholic drink(s) in your possession will be confiscated, your Head of House (Day or Boarding)/Form Teacher, the relevant Head of School, the Vice Principal and your parents/guardians notified, and a Saturday detention or a suspension from School imposed.

Any subsequent similar offence may invoke a suspension and the undertaking of an educative health intervention programme, or the Principal may review your enrolment at the School. This may lead to a further suspension or your name being removed from the School roll.

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ILLICIT DRUGS AND UNSANCTIONED MEDICATION

The possession, use, supply or trafficking of illicit drugs or unsanctioned medication, or to be under the influence of these while on School property, while in School uniform or while participating in School activities, is prohibited.

Any instance of this must be reported to the relevant Head of School, the Vice Principal and Principal. Your parents/guardians must be notified. A suspension will be invoked and your enrolment at the School reviewed. This may lead to your name being removed from the School roll. Any illicit substances found will be confiscated, held securely and passed on to the Police.

REPORTING TO THE POLICE

The School will inform the Police of any significant or serious breaches of the criminal law. Any illicit drugs found in your possession will be secured and accounted for, pending evaluation by the Police. Action taken by the Police will depend on the nature and severity of the alleged offence, and will be entirely within their discretion. This may include:

- being placed in a drug diversion programme (an education/health intervention)
- the receiving a caution; and/or
- being charged and then brought before a court to answer the charges.

You are encouraged to discuss any issues relating to tobacco, alcohol or illicit drugs with your Head of House (Day or Boarding)/Form Teacher, Head of School, the School Psychologists or the School Chaplains.

The School's responses to drugs issues are designed to take into account your emotional and physical health, and the care and welfare of all children and young people enrolled in the School and the wider Scotch College community.