



St Mary's College

Alcohol (Students) Guidelines

The Hazard - Alcohol - Student Use Of

Alcohol is a depressant drug that slows brain activity responses and impairs co-ordination. The consumption of alcohol by students increases the risk of injury to the students themselves and to others, as well as impairing the ability of students to respond appropriately in an emergency. The effects of alcohol can be magnified when consumed in conjunction with other substances, including prescription drugs.

The College's Policy

St Mary's College is committed to providing a safe environment for all our students, workers and visitors. It is our policy that:

- The purchase, possession or consumption of alcohol by students is strictly prohibited on college premises, at functions, excursions, camps, when representing the college, when wearing college uniform and in transit to or from college;
- While on college property or representing the college in any way, students are not permitted to be under the influence of alcohol;
- All students will receive age appropriate health and alcohol education to enable and support them to make informed choices, and to minimise the harm associated with alcohol use; and
- Referrals to counselling and support groups will be provided to students with alcohol related problems.

Dealing with a Student affected by Alcohol

Where a student exhibits obvious signs of intoxication a staff member shall:

- Isolate the student from her peers in a calm and controlled manner (if possible);
- If this is not possible and an impaired student refuses to cooperate and/or becomes agitated, ensure that any other students within the immediate vicinity are removed from harm and attempt to calm the student until such time as other staff members are able to provide assistance;
- Ask the student to accompany them to the college administration office; and
- Contact the Principal or other appropriate senior member of staff to inform them of the situation.



The Principal shall then make an assessment of the student's condition and take appropriate action based on the facts. This may include contacting the student's parents/carers to inform them of the incident and requesting that they remove the student from the college grounds, and/or calling the police in the event that the student is acting in an aggressive or threatening manner.

Workers' Responsibility

All workers are responsible to ensure that:

- They follow the guidelines set out in this policy when dealing with a student that they believe may be under the influence of alcohol;
- All reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety and welfare of students from both known and reasonably foreseeable alcohol related risks of harm and/or injury; and
- The Principal or other senior staff members are informed if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student is involved in alcohol related behaviour.

Implementation

This policy is based on the philosophy of harm minimisation taking into account the Tasmanian Drug Strategy and the Memorandum of Understanding between Police and Schools on how to respond and report on drug related issues by students. This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- Staff training;
- Student education via ongoing age appropriate alcohol education programs integrated into classroom learning;
- Development of alcohol safe culture by promoting student awareness in alcohol abuse;
- Effective communication procedures;
- Effective incident notification procedures;
- Effective record keeping procedures; and
- Initiation of corrective actions where necessary.