Drug and Alcohol Policy

CONTEXT STATEMENT

Samaritan College acknowledges a duty of care and a responsibility to create and maintain a safe, healthy, work and educational environment for all, students, staff and visitors. The College recognises the possession of illegal drugs; the sale and distribution of illegal drugs; the illegal possession and/or consumption of drugs and alcohol by a minor, as well as the inappropriate use of some prescription medications and alcohol can affect and impair the ability to function in a safe manner. The College acknowledges the right of students, staff and visitors to work and learn in a safe, enjoyable environment.

UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS, PHILOSOPHY & RATIONALE

We at Samaritan College acknowledge:

- All students, staff and visitors have the right to a safe school environment, which is free of illegal drugs and the inappropriate use of prescription medications and alcohol;
- The College has an educational role to increase student and staff awareness about the legal and health-related consequences of the possession of illegal drug and the effects of illegal drug usage; as well as the excessive effects of irresponsible use of legal drugs such as tobacco and alcohol.
- Students, staff and visitors should be encouraged to report all suspected and identified incidents of illegal drug possession/usage, illegal possession/consumption of alcohol and the inappropriate use of prescription and pharmaceutical medications and alcohol.

As a consequence, illegal drug possession/usage, illegal possession and/or consumption of alcohol by a minor and the inappropriate use of prescription medications and alcohol will not be tolerated.

PURPOSES / AIMS

Through the application of this policy, Samaritan College will:

- Promote within the College a learning environment free from illegal drug and alcohol abuse;
- Provide educational opportunities for students to learn about harm minimisation and the responsible use of prescription and non-prescription drugs and alcohol;
- Ensure guidelines and procedures are followed.

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURE

In support of this policy Samaritan College will:

- Make explicit to its community that irrespective of age, the College does not condone the use of illegal drugs and/or the consumption or serving of alcohol by students at school or at school events and functions;
- Inform all students, parents and staff of the procedures and possible consequences of suspected and/or identified incidents of illegal drug possession/usage, illegal possession/consumption of alcohol by a minor and the inappropriate use of prescription medications and alcohol;
- Provide resources to support class activities which educate students about personal responsibility, harm minimisation and appropriate action against drug problems;

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• Take necessary precautionary actions in situations where there is a higher potential for drug and alcohol abuse, (e.g. out of class and/or at school organised activities), to ensure these risks are minimised;
• Provide drug & alcohol counselling as required.

The Co Principals will:
• Inform parents during student enrolment of the College’s Drug and Alcohol Policy;
• Be responsible for the overall implementation of the Drug and Alcohol Policy and procedures;
• Take action to ensure the safety of all those affected, including if necessary:
  - Removal of the student from the classroom, College grounds or organised activity;
  - Disallowing participation in class activities;
  - Suspension from classes.
• Where a student’s behaviour leads to the conclusion their capacity to function effectively is impaired by the consumption of drugs and/or alcohol:
  - Request Police to investigate suspected illegal behaviour relating to drug and alcohol usage, on College grounds and/or off campus activities;
  - Inform parents of students involved in breaches of the Drug and Alcohol Policy;
  - Refer students to qualified counselling.

The Staff will:
• Raise students awareness of the dangers of illegal drug, alcohol and inappropriate use of prescription medications;
• Deliver education regarding harm minimisation;
• Ensure students understand the school guidelines on Drug and Alcohol Policy, implementation and also model appropriate behaviour;
• Provide students with information regarding access to qualified counselling services where necessary;
• Apply consistent measures to help students follow the guidelines, in keeping with the College’s Drug and Alcohol Policy;
• Model a responsible and legal approach to drug and alcohol laws, including the legal obligations not to drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
• Report to the Co-Principals breaches of the College’s Drug and Alcohol Policy;
• Report to the Co-Principals all suspected and identified incidents of illegal drug possession/usage/dealing or procuring and the inappropriate use of prescription and pharmaceutical medications and alcohol, while associated with the College.

The Students will:
• Participate in teaching and learning activities which deepen their knowledge and understanding of the risks of drug and alcohol use and the effectiveness of harm minimisation strategies;
• Accept they have personal responsibility for their actions, behaviour and wellbeing;
• Be responsible for following the College’s Drug and Alcohol Policy while attending school, school associated functions and while wearing school uniform within the community including while representing the College at any given time;
• Report to a staff member of the College all suspected and identified incidents of illegal drug possession/usage/dealing and procuring, and the inappropriate use of prescription and pharmaceutical medications and alcohol, while associated with the College.

The Parents/Caregivers will:
• Undertake to support the College by ensuring their child is following the guidelines according to the drug and alcohol policy;
• Be encouraged to model a responsible and legal approach to drug and alcohol federal and state laws.

The College Board will:
• Participate in the development, implementation and review of this policy.

BASES OF DISCRETION
• In the event of a breach of this policy, decisions made by the Co-Principals will be as a result of consultation with all necessary parties and with consideration for the circumstances and the results of a full College and/or Police investigation.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- Samaritan College Respectful Relationship (Responsible Behaviours) Policy
- Samaritan College Camps and Excursions Policy
- Samaritan College Rules & Procedures information document for enrolling students
- Samaritan College Student Diary
- Samaritan College Staff Handbook
- SACCS Duty of Care Policy 2004

**RESOURCES**

- Samaritan College Human Development Programs
  The School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP)
  Years 8 - 11
- Rethinking Drinking Program
- Resilience & Drug education resources for junior and senior students (REDI) (DEST – Aust Govt Resources)
- Cannabis & Consequences (DEST – Aust Govt Resources)

**ADMINISTRATION**

This policy will be reviewed triennially by the College unless otherwise required.

Signed: ................................. Co Principal
  ........................................ Co Principal
  ........................................ Chair of College Board

Date: ..................................... Ratified and Implemented

Review Date: June 2013