St John's College

Within The University of Queensland

Drugs other than Alcohol Policy (Student)

If you have any questions about this policy, please do not hesitate to contact the Warden via email at warden@stjohns.uq.edu.au

Contact Officer	Date Approved by Warden	Date of Last Review	Date for Next Review
The Warden	01 January 2021	6 August 2025	6 August 2026

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1 Purpose and Scope

1.1 St John's College fosters a safe living and learning environment where every student, staff member, visitor and invited guest must be respectful and considerate of others. The College's Student Code of Conduct establishes a standard by which students are expected to conduct themselves and should be referred to in relation to this policy.

1.2 The College prohibits the use of illegal substances and misuse of prescribed medications and other substances e.g. nitrous oxide. It operates on the principle that members of the College community are adults and are responsible for what they consume. The use of such substances can have significant consequences for individual health and wellbeing. Drug use does not diminish a student's personal responsibility for observing the Student Code of Conduct and other policies.

1.3 All activities at St John's College are subject to the relevant Commonwealth and State laws, and the College's own policies and procedures. Consequently, the College does not condone the use of any prescribed drugs for purposes other than those specified by a medical practitioner. The use of illegal substances by any student, staff member or visitor on the College premises or attending a College event is a serious matter. The sale or dealing of an illegal substance or prescribed substance by a College student will not be tolerated.

1.4 This policy applies to all St John's College students and staff, their visitors and invited guests, on College grounds. It relates equally to those attending and/or participating in College events and activities held outside College grounds. Everyone covered by this policy is responsible for familiarising themselves with and adhering to this policy as well as being responsible for their own behaviour.

1.5 This policy also outlines support services available to assist members of the College with drug-related problems. Where there is drug misuse, students will be supported to seek professional help and advice.

2 Commitment to an Educative Approach

2.1 The College will raise awareness by educating its students in the harmful effects of drug misuse including harm minimisation strategies. Consequently, students will be required as a condition of residency, to complete an on-line seminar detailing responsibilities and expectations in relation to drug use.

3. Smoking and Vaping

3.1 The College is committed to supporting students with addictions to tobacco or vaping products. All students are encouraged to seek support from the Vice Warden or Dean of Student Wellbeing if they have an addiction to either.

3.2 Smoking or vaping is only permitted in the designated area near the College gymnasium. Under no circumstances is smoking or vaping permitted inside any building, or in any public space, at the College.

4. Seeking assistance

4.1 The College encourages anyone who is concerned about themselves or their peers to seek support as soon as possible, so that they can be helped and supported.

4.2 If you need help or support from within the College, please contact:

- The Warden
- The Vice Warden
- Wellbeing and Residential Support Manager
- Dean of Students

4.3 Aside from the sources of support at College, there are many other support services related to drug use and addiction. In strict confidence, support persons at College can assist anyone affected to access these services.

- Alcohol and Drug Support QLD (Adis) 1800 177 833 (Confidential advice/counselling)
- Headspace
- The University of Queensland counselling services
- Queensland University of Technology (QUT) counselling service
- Griffith University counselling and wellbeing services
- QLD Police - Emergency assistance (including ambulance): phone 000; non-urgent police assistance: phone 131 444
- Legal Services Commission of QLD

5. Procedures

These procedures apply to drug use and provide guidance to compliance with the policy above.

Safe Storage

5.1 If a student is prescribed medications by their doctor that can be used for non-medical reasons the College understands that this is private information and suggests that the student:

a) Keep medications in a locked box in their room
b) Keep this information private and do not inform other students or visitors of their medications, unless that person is supporting the member and their medical condition
c) Consider informing the Vice Warden or Dean of Student Wellbeing. This information will be kept strictly confidential
d) Report theft or misplacement of these medications to the College and police immediately.

Harm Minimisation

5.2 In dealing with instances of drug use by students, the College will always remain compliant with Australian law. The College understands that consuming illegal drugs and misuse of prescription medication has the potential to affect decision-making and the personal safety of all students. However, its primary priority will be the health and safety of students through harm minimisation approaches and behaviour management procedures activated once any immediate danger has been addressed.

5.3 The College may as part of its duty to protect the safety of all students impose consequences for misconduct where necessary, in line with the Addressing Concerns and Complaints Policy

5.4 Visitors to College found to be using, selling or dealing illegal substances will be asked to leave and be banned from College. They may also be reported to the relevant authorities.

Responding to incidents of drug use, possession or dealing by a College student

5.5 If a student of the College is suspected of using, selling or dealing in illegal substances or misusing, selling or dealing in prescribed substances, the Vice Warden or Warden should be notified as soon as possible.

5.6 Students found to be selling, dealing or coercing others into taking illegal substances will be immediately suspended and may face expulsion, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and College policies.

Review

5.7 This policy and procedure will be reviewed each year, prior to publication in the Student Handbook and on the College website, to ensure that it is compliant with best practice management and the College's legal obligations.