St John's College

Within The University of Queensland

Responsible Consumption of Alcohol Policy

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 Council	Date of Last Version	Date for Next Review
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St John's College
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1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 St John's College encourages and promotes a responsible attitude toward the consumption of alcohol within its community. 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 policy is designed to be supportive of responsible practices rather than restrictive and is guided by a number of principles which include:

- that 'harm minimisation', 'moderation' and 'protective behaviour' underpin the supply and consumption of alcohol;
- that education and/or training is a key component of the implementation process;
- that legislative, insurance, risk and legal requirements be adhered to, and
- permits responsible consumption of alcohol for adults over 18 years of age, and;
- student events are well planned to be safe, fun and enjoyable; and
- that the reputation of St John's College is maintained within the University and the broader community.

1.3 The College operates on the basic principle that its students are young adults and are responsible for what they consume. It recognises that safe alcohol consumption in Australia is legally and culturally accepted and students at the College and over the age of 18 are legally entitled to purchase and consume alcohol.

1.4 The College will effectively discharge its responsibilities towards bringing, supplying, keeping, selling and consuming alcohol on its site in accordance with the requirements of the *Liquor Act 1992 (Qld)* https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-1992-021. All activities at St John's College are covered by relevant Commonwealth and State laws, and the College's own policies and procedures.

2. Education

2.1 The College aims to prevent alcohol-related injury through harm minimisation. Harm minimisation seeks to decrease impairment resulting from excessive or anti-social consumption of alcohol.

2.2 By adopting an educative approach towards alcohol consumption, the College will proactively promote the standards of behaviour towards alcohol use it expects on College premises, at licensed premises, and of those participating in College events. Its aim is for students to develop responsible attitudes and behaviours towards alcohol and to ensure that consumption does not prevent them from engaging energetically with College life and their university studies.

2.3 All members of the Student Club Executive and Residential Advisor team are provided with training that incorporates evidence based, safe practices.

2.4 All students complete online training prior to arrival at College, and face to face training before O-Week starts and during the year.

3. Seeking Support

Where alcohol misuse is found, students will be supported to seek professional help and advice in a sensitive manner.

If you need help or support, contact:

- Alcohol and Drug Support QLD - Adis 1800 177 833
- The Warden
- The Vice Warden
- Wellbeing and Residential Support Manager
- Dean of Students

4. Responsible Consumption of Alcohol — Procedures

4.1 These procedures apply to the responsible consumption of alcohol and provide guidance to compliance with the policy above.

Personal conduct

4.2 Students and their guests who are 18+ years old and who have chosen to consume alcohol are encouraged to drink at lower and safer risk levels.

4.3 Normal community and legal standards relating to behaviour are applicable in College as they are everywhere else and all student behaviour must be aligned with the *Student Code of Conduct.*

4.4 Drunkenness or other intoxication is not a defence for unacceptable behaviour.

4.5 Those who choose to consume alcohol must take full responsibility for their behaviour and those who serve alcohol to students must recognise they have some responsibility for the behaviour of those they serve.

4.6 Competitive drinking games, which include alcohol and the encouragement or expectation to drink alcohol fast, to excess, or in any other dangerous manner, are not acceptable behaviours.

4.7 No student is to compel or otherwise exert pressure on any other person to drink alcohol.

Dry areas and drinking restrictions onsite

4.8 The Library, Gym, Chapel, Block corridors and Dining Hall Kitchen are dry zones and therefore alcohol is not permitted to be consumed in these areas.

4.9 There is to be no organised drinking events on campus during weekdays in term time prior to 5pm.

4.10 There is to be no drinking gatherings on campus during SWOTVAC and the exam period.

The Dining Hall

4.11 Formal Dinner and other College events are special occasions and where appropriate, the College will provide students with limited alcohol to consume with their meal. Students are not permitted to remove this alcohol from the dining hall or bring in their own without approval from the Warden.

4.12 Anyone who is intoxicated will be asked to leave the Dining Hall.

Student Club Events

4.13 Event organisers are required to complete an Event Request Form, including the Event Management Form, which is to be lodged with the Vice Warden 14 days prior to the event. Student Club funds are not normally to be used to distribute alcohol free of charge at student functions. Permission for this to occur must be obtained from the Vice Warden. Alcohol should not be available at events in excess of lower risk consumption levels. This means that alcohol should be catered for at a maximum of four standard drinks per attendee.

4.14 Student activities at St John's must adhere to the relevant Commonwealth and State laws, in addition to the following;

a) No person who exhibits signs of intoxication is permitted to be served alcohol at the event
b) Water is to be available and clearly visible at the bar
c) Quality non-alcoholic drink options are to be given equal prominence as alcoholic beverages at the bar
d) Individuals who serve alcohol are to be accredited with QLD Responsible Service of Alcohol, a copy of which needs to be provided to the Vice Warden.
e) Alcohol must not be removed from the designated Event area as determined by the Liquor License
f) It is the responsibility of the event organisers to discuss with the Vice Warden to ensure that arrangements are made for food to be provided. These plans should be included in the Event Management Plan.

Liquor Licence

4.15 All student-organised events at which alcohol is served must adhere to the Liquor Licence requirements in Queensland.

4.16 The College will arrange for relevant training in the Responsible Service of Alcohol for members of the Student Club Executive who are in charge of organising an event.

The Buttery Bar

4.17 The St John's Club Buttery is situated on the ground floor of the Annexe Block. It operates under a community club licence, as a licenced venue and supplies alcohol through a transaction, i.e. a cash/EFT bar.

4.18 The Buttery must comply with the Queensland Liquor Act 1992, including the principles of the Responsible Service of Alcohol. These include but are not limited to:

a) Alcohol is only served to and consumed by those 18+ years old.
b) Entry or service of alcohol is only granted to those who are not intoxicated.
c) Activities that promote safer levels of alcohol consumption are encouraged.
d) Water is to be available and clearly visible at the bar.
e) Non-alcoholic beverages, low alcoholic beverages and food must be provided and always available.
f) Quality non-alcoholic drink options are to be given equal prominence as alcoholic beverages at the bar.
g) No energy drinks are supplied.
h) There are no takeaway sales.

4.13 The Vice Warden and the Business Manager, on behalf of the Warden, acts as the 'Responsible Managers' under the licence, and must ensure that all legal requirements are met when the Buttery is open. This will ensure that the College maintains its on premises Liquor License and is able to keep the Buttery open for College Members to enjoy. The Responsible Managers are ultimately responsible for Buttery when it is open and has the final say in the operation of the venue.

Advertising and promotion of events

4.14 The College does not condone the following, and events where this is the case will not be approved:

a) Promotional activities offering inducements or otherwise encouraging drinking as the major objective;
b) Customs or activities that exert social pressure on students to drink or to drink to excess, particularly competitive, binge, or excessive drinking practices; and
c) Alcoholic drinking games and other activities that promote binge drinking or rapid intoxication.

Minors

4.15 St John's College is committed to providing an environment that is safe for all children living at or visiting its premises. As such, no person under the age of 18 is permitted to consume alcohol on College grounds or at College events. This includes

in the private rooms of students. Furthermore, no student, staff member or guest is permitted to supply alcohol to persons under 18 years of age.

4.16 A responsible adult must accompany underage guests at all times on College grounds.

Visitors to the College.

4.17 Students are responsible for ensuring that their visitors and guests comply with this policy.

4.18 College or student events where external guests are in attendance need prior approval and a full list of attendees provided to the Vice Warden prior to commencement of the event, including notification of any attendees under the age of 18.

Roles and Responsibilities

4.19 The College is responsible for implementing this policy and responding to reports of alcohol misuse or harm.

4.20 Every person covered by this policy is responsible for familiarising themselves with and adhering to this policy and are responsible for their own safe decisions regarding the consumption of alcohol.

Being an ethical bystander

4.21 College students take pride in maintaining their own wellbeing, as well as that of their friends and others, at all times. If there is injury or risk of injury resulting from excessive consumption of alcohol, students are encouraged to call for help regardless of alcohol or substance use.

4.22 To be a proactive bystander, students should:

a) **NOTICE** an incident as one that needs their assistance or awareness.
b) Take **RESPONSIBILITY** for intervening. Students are encouraged to be the leader that steps up and takes on the responsibility for doing something or who engages others in intervening as a group.
c) Be **READY** to intervene by having the skills and practicing or seeking additional support.

Alcohol and Informed Consent

<u>Informed Consent</u>

4.23 Students have the right to make choices free from peer pressure and with a clear understanding of the facts and potential outcomes of that choice. This is informed consent and must be considered when consuming alcohol. Therefore, students should understand the following:

a) Intoxicated people cannot give informed consent

b) Informed consent requires people to be free from the influence or coercion of others
c) Informed consent requires the person to be aware of the relevant facts

Informed consent and consumption of alcohol

4.24 All people have the following rights regarding the consumption of alcohol at College:
a) To know the alcoholic content and strength of a drink;
b) To be given sufficient information to understand what they are agreeing to;
c) To be given free choice to opt in or out without fear or pressure; and
d) Be permitted to change their mind at any time.

Alcohol, Respectful Relationships and Consent

4.25 Engagement in sexual activity should only ever be undertaken where strong and positive consent is freely given and maintained by all parties involved.

4.26 Consent cannot be given when a person is intoxicated. Where consent cannot be obtained from all parties, sexual activity must not occur.

4.27 For further information, refer to the Student Code of Conduct and the Sexual Misconduct Policy.

Student Code of Conduct

4.28 When a student's alcohol consumption is consistently excessive or a student demonstrates unacceptable behaviour resulting from the over-consumption of alcohol, the College reserves the right to take appropriate action in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct.*

Seeking Support – within the College

4.29 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. The following people at the College have received appropriate training in this area:
- Warden
- Vice Warden
- Wellbeing and Residential Support Manager

Seeking Support – other sources

4.30 Aside from the sources of support at College, there are many other support services for anyone who would like to learn more about alcohol related harm or to seek support for alcoholism or behavioural issues relating to alcohol consumption. Support persons at College can help anyone affected to access these services.
- Alcohol and Drug Support - QLD (adis)
- 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
- Lifeworks: phone 1300 361 008

Education and training

4.31 The College recognises its obligation to take all reasonable measures to ensure that up to date and relevant information is made available to students about the effects, both short and longer term of using alcohol and other addictive substances.

4.32 All students must participate in College-provided education programs on alcohol awareness and harm minimisation.

Tips for Safer Alcohol Consumption

4.33 The following information is drawn from the 2020 *Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol*:

4.34 **There is no safe level of alcohol consumption**, only relatively higher or lower levels of risk. To reduce the risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury, healthy men and women should drink no more than 10 standard drinks a week and no more than 4 standard drinks on any one day. The less you drink, the lower your risk of harm from alcohol. The *Australian Guidelines* define a standard drink as containing 10g of alcohol (equivalent to 12.5ml of pure alcohol). A serving of alcohol frequently differs from a standard drink.

4.35 A standard drink contains 10 grams of pure alcohol. The type of alcohol makes no difference. 10 grams of alcohol is 10 grams of alcohol, whether it is in beer, wine or spirits. It does not matter whether it is mixed with soft drink, fruit juice, water or ice.

4.36 General tips for safer alcohol consumption:

- Quench your thirst with a non-alcoholic drink
- Eat before you drink
- Drink alcohol slowly
- Alternate alcohol with non-alcoholic drinks (especially water)
- Count your standard drinks
- Learn to identify when you've had enough
- Listen to your friends when they say you've had enough to drink
- Look after your friends. Let them know when you think they've had enough and should switch to non-alcoholic drinks
- Do something else while drinking. Don't just drink. Don't get involved in drinking games.
- Arrange safe transport home
- Never mix alcohol with other drugs such as sleeping pills, tranquillisers or cannabis, as this can be a lethal combination
- Respect the needs of other students of College and the surrounding community to sleep and study

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5. Policy Review

5.1 This policy 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.

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