



Gippsland Grammar

A PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE

Policy on Response to Drugs and Alcohol (Student)

1. Preamble

1.1 Purpose

Gippsland Grammar's aim is to promote the health and wellbeing of its students. This requires students to be educated and well-informed, and to uphold strong core values when faced with the pressures of adolescence, including exposure to drugs and alcohol.

The School appreciates that issues concerning drugs and alcohol are complex and can arise from a combination of contributing factors. Notwithstanding this, the School does not condone or tolerate student involvement with drugs or alcohol either at, or in connection with the School.

Accordingly, it is important that the School takes a stand on values and make its position clear to the students and the wider School community.

This policy has been developed in order to:

- complement the School's drug education program;
- make clear the School's expectations regarding drugs, smoking and alcohol;
- compliment the School's duty of care obligations and its paramount consideration – child safety; and
- publish guidelines and consequences that are relevant in our School.

1.2 Scope

This policy applies to all students (including those aged 18 and over) across all campuses of Gippsland Grammar, including Blackwood House.

The School's expectations, as outlined in this policy, are not limited to the School's premises or a School based event. It extends to all activities and events that are school-related, including when students are:

- on School grounds;
- at any School-related activity (including camps, excursions, retreats and sport);
- travelling to and from School or a School-related activity;
- wearing school uniform;
- under the School's legal duty of care;
- engaging in behaviour which in the reasonable opinion of the School may affect student health and safety, student relationships, staff health and safety, staff-student relationships, or the reputation of the School.

1.3 Related Policies and Procedures/Protocols

Critical Incident Policy

Student Behaviour Management Policy

Self-Harm Protocol

Building Respectful Relationships Policy

2. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, a reference to drugs or alcohol includes:

Alcohol

- Any beverage with a labelled percentage of alcohol measurement (including beer, wine and spirits). This includes light beer and other substances with a low percentage of alcohol per volume.
- Any beverage or product that under Australian law is illegal, or only sold to a person over the age of 18.

Drugs

- Cigarettes, vaping or e-cigarette devices.
- Products, substances or devices that contain tobacco or nicotine.
- Tranquillisers or sedatives.
- Illicit substances or solvents including but not limited to cannabis, amphetamines, ketamine, opiates, ecstasy and heroin.
- Any substance that under Australian law is illegal, or only sold to a person over the age of 18.
- Any substance that may be legally obtained but is misused e.g. diet pills, Panadol, Ventolin, glue, use of another person's prescription medication, stimulants, petrol and other solvents.

However, this policy does not take issue with a student accessing, possessing and using over-the-counter and prescription medication in accordance with that student's medical advice, provided that medication is stored in accordance with the School's First Aid Policy.

3. The School's expectations

Students are not permitted to bring onto School grounds, possess, use, store, sell, supply or be under the influence of:

- Drugs or alcohol.
- Drug or alcohol paraphernalia – including but not limited to syringes, bongs, pipes, vapes, tobacco pouches etc.

Gippsland Grammar is a smoke-free environment. In accordance with legislation smoking is banned on the grounds of, and within four metres of all entrances to Gippsland Grammar.

Accordingly, all School events at which students are present will be conducted as alcohol and drug free events. This includes but is not limited by concerts, Valedictory Dinner, intervals at drama performances and STAGGFAIR.

All members of our School community are also subject to laws regarding drugs and alcohol, both on and off School grounds. All members of the School community have the same responsibility as every other citizen to uphold the law.

Equally, the School is committed to upholding its obligations to report actual or suspected criminal activity and other student related concerns to the Police and other regulatory bodies.

4. The School's response

Should the School form concerns that a student has engaged in behaviour that is illegal, high-risk taking, dangerous, or in breach of this policy:

- The matter will ordinarily be referred to and dealt with by the Head of Campus in consultation with the Principal.

- Parents will be contacted if the Principal forms concerns that a student has engaged in behaviour in breach of this policy.
- Should the School form concerns about the student's health and wellbeing, or the health and wellbeing of other students or staff, the School has discretion to implement interim measures it considers appropriate in the circumstances (including a requirement that a student not attend school whilst an investigation is ongoing or place conditions on the student's enrolment).
- The School reserves the right to inspect or search any location on its campus or grounds including student lockers, bathrooms, desks etc. If a student is asked to empty their pockets, or to allow staff to search property, and declines or refuses, staff may be required to assume that the student has in fact breached requirements of this policy. Staff will conduct any searches in an appropriate manner and will, where appropriate, advise the student's parents of the search.
- The School also reserves the right to make findings as to whether conduct that is illegal, high-risk taking, dangerous or in breach of this policy has occurred, notwithstanding that there may be no physical evidence available. In making such findings the School will have regard to the principles of procedural fairness, and will make findings based on the available evidence and the basis of probabilities.
- The School must fulfil its obligations under the law which in some cases (such as the possession of illicit drugs or provision of illicit drugs to other people) will mean that the issue will be reported to the Police.

5. Student Discipline

The School treats a breach of this policy extremely seriously. Where students are found to have breached this policy, the School may enact a range of disciplinary measures, including educational, pastoral, disciplinary and punitive responses.

Refer to the School's Student Behaviour Management Policy.

In this regard, it is the School's approach to:

- Consider the appropriateness of disciplinary measures in line with its Anglican ethos.
- Consider consequences in proportion to the seriousness of the student's conduct – which may range from counselling and detention through to suspension, probation and the possible withdrawal of their place at the School.
- Have regard to the School's legal obligations.
- Consider any aggravating and mitigating factors relevant to the student's conduct (eg. additional needs, context).
- Have regard to its duty of care obligations and consider what actions best reflect the interests of all students at the School.

6. Review

This policy is subject to review every two years, or more frequently as required.

7. Acknowledgements Appendix A: History

| Version | Authorised by | Approval Date | Effective Date | Sections modified |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.2 | Jan Henry | [xx Month Year] | 18 November 2013 | Section 3 only |
| 1.3 | Kate Arnup | | 08 June 2018 | Nil |
| 1.4 | Russell Kennedy Lawyers | | | All |