



St Andrew's College

Alcohol, Smoking, Medications and Other Drugs Policy

This policy has been developed by the St Andrew's College community
Policy authorised by St Andrew's College Council.

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The St Andrew's Community

Who we are

Born of the Scottish Enlightenment, St Andrew's College is a diverse and inclusive community united through our College Values. Our members value reasoning, responsibility and personal choice. As such we support one another in maintaining respectful relationships in all circumstances (on or off College grounds, with other College Members, and with all people external to the College).

All College Members are bound by [St Andrew's College policies](#). The term College members includes all students and staff (both residential and non-residential). Alumni, contractors and visitors to College are also considered to be bound by College policies when onsite.

All members of the St Andrew's College Community have the right to live, study and work in a safe and supportive environment and we endeavour to maintain and promote this environment, recognising that we are all responsible for maintaining this through:

1. An historic overarching College motto of 'Christo, Ecclesiae and Litteris' which incorporates the following set of values; Service, responsibility, humility, leadership, friendship, community, inclusion, attainment, enlightenment, rigour and engagement.
2. Education and training for students, which is done throughout the year at College, with sessions run by external providers, by Education & Student Life staff, and supported by ongoing posts and information provided to College members by Education & Student Life, Pastoral Care Leaders and Student's Club.
3. Training senior members of College on how to approach, give information, and support fellow members to seek assistance.
4. Engaging with all College members to intentionally create a community that is inclusive, respectful, and reflective.
5. Responding safely, and in a timely manner, to emerging issues.

Any member of the College community who has concerns or questions is encouraged to seek help for themselves, or for others, at any time either during or after the event. All matters will be confidentially and respectfully managed. The health and wellbeing of everyone concerned is of the utmost importance.

Policy Goals

St Andrew's College seeks to support its student members through their transition to adulthood with a breadth of intellectual, spiritual, cultural and social experiences. Rather than creating policy grounded in punitive measures, this policy aims to empower College Members by focusing on wellbeing and encouraging its members to think critically, to make informed choices and to hold themselves and others accountable for their actions. This policy intends to;

- Make college members aware of the support available to them.
- Emphasize responsibility to self and others.
- Guide College Members in creating a community which values informed consent and respects choices.
- Minimise any harm as the result of consuming alcohol, smoking or using other drugs.
- Clearly set out the legal obligations of College Members.

Alcohol Policy

College Members who are 18+ years old have the right to make an informed choice free from peer pressure to consume or not to consume alcohol.

1. College Members who are 18+ years old and who have chosen to consume alcohol are encouraged to drink at lower risk levels: that means up to 2 standard drinks per day to decrease lifetime risk of harm and up to 4 standard drinks on one occasion to decrease acute risk of harm on any drinking occasion.
2. College Members who are 18+ years old, who have chosen to consume alcohol, are encouraged to eat food and drink water before, during and after consuming alcohol.
3. College Members take pride in maintaining their own wellbeing as well as that of their friends and others at all times, especially if alcohol is being consumed. If there is injury or risk of this, College Members are encouraged to call for help regardless of alcohol or substance use.
4. College Members are expected to always maintain respectful relationships. (See [Respectful Relationships Policy](#))
5. College Members are responsible for maintaining the current condition of the College's historic grounds and must actively prevent any damage that might occur, especially as the result of alcohol consumption. Any damage to College grounds or property should be reported as soon as possible.
6. Alcohol may be consumed at non-licensed social events held on College grounds if:
 - Alcohol is only consumed by those 18+ years old.
 - All those 18+ years old in attendance, who are consuming alcohol, are freely consenting.
 - All those 18+ years old in attendance must be aware of the alcohol content of each drink.
7. All licensed events must comply with the law and [The University of Sydney Liquor Accord Guidelines for Specific Events](#).

Informed Consent

St Andrew's College Members 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, smoking or using other drugs. College Members should understand the following

- Intoxicated people cannot give informed consent.
- Informed consent requires people to be free from the influence of others, not least, older community members.
- Informed consent requires the person to be aware of all the relevant facts.

This includes

1. How alcoholic a drink is
2. Being given sufficient information to understand what they are agreeing to.
3. Being given a free choice to opt in or out without any negative sequelae.
4. Being permitted to change their mind at any time.

Harm Minimisation

St Andrew's College takes a harm minimisation approach towards the use of alcohol, smoking, medications and other drugs. Harm minimisation recognises that the use of substances can be a part of life for many young people in Australia and seeks to decrease any harm as a result of this. The College

Community wishes to minimise harm associated with alcohol, smoking, medications and other drugs, to develop responsible attitudes and behaviours towards them and to ensure that these substances do not prevent College Members from engaging energetically with College life.

Safer alcohol consumption levels

There is no safe level of alcohol consumption. Current Australian Guidelines suggest that;

- Drinking 2 standard drinks or less per day reduces the lifetime risk of harm from alcohol related disease or injury while.
- Drinking 4 standard drinks or less on one occasion reduces the risk of alcohol-related injury arising from that occasion.

All members of the College Community with concerns or questions are encouraged to seek help for themselves or for others at any time. All matters will be confidentially and respectfully managed. The health and wellbeing of everyone concerned are of the utmost importance.

The Highlander Bar

The Highlander Bar is situated in the Junior Common Room. When it is supplying alcohol through a transaction i.e. a cash bar, it operates as a licensed venue. As a licensed venue, The Highlander Bar must comply with the [NSW Liquor Act 2007](#) at all times, including the principles of the [Responsible Service of Alcohol](#) as well as [The University of Sydney Liquor Accord](#).

These include but are not limited to

- Alcohol is only served to and consumed by those 18+ years old
- Entry or service of alcohol is only granted to those who are not intoxicated.
- Activities that promote safer levels of alcohol consumption are encouraged.
- Water, non-alcoholic beverages, low alcoholic beverages and food must be provided and always available.
- No energy drinks are supplied.
- Alcohol is served in plastic cups only and there are no takeaway sales.
- The licensed premises is a non-smoking venue.

Both the elected Highlander Bar Team and the Licensee are responsible for meeting all legal requirements when The Highlander Bar is open. This will ensure that the College maintains its on- premises Liquor License and is able to keep The Highlander open for College Members to enjoy. The Licensee is ultimately responsible for The Highlander Bar and has the final say in the operation of the venue.

When The Highlander Bar is not operating, the Junior Common Room may be used for non-licensed social events.

The Dining Hall

Formal dinners and other major dinners at St Andrew's are special occasions for our Community. College Members who are 18+ years old may bring bottled wine or bottled beer to these special occasions.

Further information about formal dinners can be found in the [College Handbook](#).

Smoking Policy

1. College Members who are 18+ years old and who have chosen to smoke should understand that smoking, whether it is tobacco, cannabis or nicotine smoked through cigarettes or e-cigarettes, is harmful to the health of the users and others. There is no known safe level of use for any of these products or devices, including the inhalation of second-hand smoke/vapour.
2. St Andrew's College is a non-smoking precinct. Smoking anywhere in College will result in a fine of \$300 to Students' Club.
3. College Members who are 18+ years old have the right to make an informed choice free from peer pressure about whether or not they smoke tobacco products including e-cigarettes.
4. College Members who smoke must comply with the law as well as [The University of Sydney Smoke Free Environment Policy](#) document.
5. College Members who smoke are encouraged to quit for their own health and the health of others. Support, including limited financial support for stop smoking products, is available for College Members. All enquiries will be dealt with sensitively, confidentially and respectfully.
6. The prescription of a smoked substance by a medical practitioner does not override the College's Smoking Policy.

The Highlander Bar and smoking

The Highlander Bar operates as a licensed smoke-free venue. This includes the outdoor area. The elected Highlander Bar Team and the Licensee are responsible for meeting this legal requirement.

Medications and Other Drugs Policy

1. The College does not condone the use of any prescribed drugs for purposes / by individuals other than those specified by a medical practitioner.
2. Non-legal use of other drugs by any member of College or on College grounds is prohibited.
3. The sale or dealing of any other drugs by College members will result in immediate suspension and likely permanent expulsion.
4. All matters relating to drug use will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. While the College will always remain consistent with Australian law, its priority is the health and safety of residents. It will, when possible, facilitate members' access to services required to minimise harm and enable rehabilitation.
5. The College has a duty to protect the safety of all residents and will impose sanctions when necessary.
6. Visitors to College found to be using, selling or dealing illegal substances on site will be asked to leave and may be banned.

What are other drugs?

Other drugs include

1. Sedatives e.g. codeine, heroin, GHB, etc.
2. Stimulants e.g. Ecstasy, amphetamines, including 'ice' etc.
3. Hallucinogens and other drugs e.g. Cannabis, nitrous oxide etc.

Many of these can be either prescribed by a doctor or bought illegally. Some may be bought legally for other uses. And all are used in Australian society for non-medical and recreational reasons.

If a College member is prescribed medications by their doctor that can be used for nonmedical reasons, College understands that this is private information and suggests that the College member:

1. Keep medications in a locked box in their room.
2. Keep this information private and do not inform other college residents or visitors of the medications, unless they are supporting the member and their medical condition.
3. Consider informing the Vice Principal or Principal. This information will be kept strictly confidential.

The College understands that consuming other drugs has the potential to affect decision-making and affect the personal safety of College Members.

The College takes a harm minimisation approach and encourages any member of the College community with concerns to seek help for themselves or a friend at any time. All matters will be confidentially and respectfully managed and the health and wellbeing of everyone concerned is paramount.

Further Information

St Andrews College takes pride in developing policy that is evidence based.

For additional evidence based information on the use of smoking, alcohol or other drugs please refer to the [Alcohol and Drug Foundation website](#).

Where to go for help

No Wrong Door Policy

The priority of St Andrew's College is maintaining the safety, health and wellbeing of all members, our community is here to support you. The **No Wrong Door Policy** means that if you have any enquiries you can contact anyone in the College community who you feel comfortable talking to. The needs and rights of individuals and the community are paramount and all enquiries will be dealt with sensitively, confidentially and respectfully.

To support the **No Wrong Door Policy**, all staff, Pastoral Care Leaders, House Committee Members and Student Mentors have completed physical and mental health first responder training and are happy to assist fellow College members.

Who do I speak to?

You are welcome to approach anyone in the College community but here are some suggestions of who you might like to contact dependent upon the nature of your issue or query.

Respectful Relationships Officers

The role of the College Respectful Relationships Officers is to provide support and information to any one in College who is concerned about any possible discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, assault, indecent assault or sexual assault.

You can find the names and contact details of appointed staff members [here](#).

These Officers can provide confidential information and support regarding College policies and procedures. They may be instructed by the Principal to investigate any formal complaints.

Pastoral Care Leaders

Having a rough time at College? Feeling like you don't fit in? Not sure how to get involved? Having health or wellbeing issues that impacting your life? Feel you need additional support? Missing home? Need someone to chat to? Our [Pastoral Care Leaders](#) can help and all enquires will be dealt with sensitively, confidentially and respectfully.

Pastoral Care Leaders are student members of College who are strongly engaged with the student community. They live onsite throughout College. We also have dedicated members to support our non-residential (Non-residential Liaisons), Indigenous (Indigenous Liaison) and DEI members of College (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Liaisons).

St Andrew's Students' Club – House Committee

The House Committee is elected each year by the students of St Andrew's College consisting of 11 members. The House Committee is a group of students that leads and directs the St Andrew's Student Club throughout the year in the many facets of the college and intercollegiate community.

Student Mentors

A Mentor is assigned to each first year student to guide them through their first year at St Andrew's College. New students meet their mentor in Welcome Week to help them become part of College and will provide the new students with ongoing support and information throughout the year.

Campus Support

College Members study at a variety of institutions - UTS, UNSW, Notre Dame, La Trobe, ACU, WSU USyd, and The Conservatorium of Music. Each institution has its own student support services. Please see the relevant institutional website for more details.

University Policies

College members attend a number of tertiary institutions and each of these institutions have policies regarding bullying, harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. Students of each institution are bound by these policies as well as St Andrew's College policy. St Andrew's College takes pride in developing policy that is evidence based. You are of course welcome to seek advice from anyone in College you feel can assist. College seeks to ensure that all College members are aware of this policy and can direct you to further support and information if needed.

External Support Options

[Lifeline](#) - 13 11 14

[1800 Respect](#) - 1800 737 732

[Reach Out](#)

