



St Mark's College

DRUG POLICY

If you need help or support, contact:

- **the Dean, Professor Peter Tregear**
- **the Director of Learning, Dr Rachel Buxton**
- **the Chaplain, Rev'd Grant Moore**
- **Drug and Alcohol Services of SA: 1300 13 1340 (confidential counselling and information)**
- **Headspace: 1800 063 267**
- **any of the other external services listed near the end of this policy**

About the Policy

This Policy is available on the St Mark's College [student portal](#) and in the student Handbook.

This is a stand-alone Policy. As far as possible, it is consistent with the College's health, safety and welfare management system and with student and staff codes of conduct.

Statement of Commitment

The College is a living and learning environment where every student, staff member and visitor must be respectful and considerate of others. The College operates on the basic principle that residents are adults and are responsible for what they consume. The use of illegal substances and the misuse of prescribed medication can have significant consequences for individual health and wellbeing, and such behaviour is not condoned by the College.

The use of illicit substances and misuse of prescribed medications does not diminish a resident's personal responsibility for observing community rules and expectations.

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

All activities at St Mark's are covered by relevant Commonwealth and State laws, and the College's own policies and procedures.

Who is covered by this Policy

This Policy applies to all St Mark's College staff and students, and to their visitors and invitees, on College grounds.

It also applies to everyone (College staff, students and their visitors and invitees) attending and/or participating in College events and activities, whether held on or outside College grounds.

Definitions

College	St Mark's College Inc of 46 Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide SA
Resident	All residents of the College
Senior Resident	Students who hold a formal leadership position, including Assistant Deans, Duty Tutors, Residential Advisors, College Club Committee members, Senior Academic Tutors, Academic Coordinators, and members of the SCR and MCR.
Student	A student resident of the College

The Policy

The College does not condone the use of any prescribed drugs for purposes and by individuals other than those specified by a medical practitioner.

The possession or use of illegal substances by any student, staff member or resident of the College is not permitted at any time or by any individual on the College premises or attending a College event.

The possession, use, sale or dealing of *any* illegal substance or misuse, sale or dealing of any prescribed medication by a College resident may result in immediate suspension and likely permanent expulsion from the College.

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 all residents. It will therefore, where possible, facilitate residents' access to services to minimise harm and enable rehabilitation.

The College has a duty to protect the safety of all residents and will impose consequences for misconduct when necessary. The College understands that consuming of illegal drugs and misuse of prescription medication has the potential to affect decision-making and affect the personal safety of all residents. The College's first priority will always be the immediate safety of all residents, with harm minimisation approaches and behaviour management procedures activated once any immediate danger is addressed.

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

Illegal Substances and Prescribed Medications

There are a range of illegal substances and prescribed medications that can have serious, including fatal, consequences if misused. These include:

- Sedatives (e.g. codeine, heroin, GHB, opioids)
- Stimulants (e.g. ecstasy, amphetamines including 'ice')
- Hallucinogens and other drugs (e.g. cannabis, nitrous oxide)

Many of these can be either prescribed by a doctor or bought illegally. Some may be bought legally for other uses. It is the responsibility of all residents to be aware of the risks and legality associated with any substance they consume.

Storage of Prescribed Medications

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:

- Keep medications in a locked box in their room
- Keep this information private and do not inform other students or visitors of their medications, unless they are supporting the member and their medical condition
- Consider informing the Dean, the Director of Learning, or the Head of College. This information will be kept strictly confidential
- Report theft or misplacement of these medications to the College and police immediately.

Roles and Responsibilities

The College is responsible for implementing this Policy and responding to reports of drug possession or use.

Every person covered by this Policy (see **Who is covered by this Policy** above) is responsible for familiarising themselves with and adhering to this Policy and are responsible for their own behaviour.

Behaviour Management

If a resident student or staff member of the College is thought to be possessing, using, selling or dealing in illegal substances or misusing, selling or dealing in prescribed medication, a complaint may be referred to the Head of College or Dean in person, by phone or in writing.

Penalties, as described above, apply.

Procedural Fairness

The College will respect the rights of respondents throughout any investigation and behaviour management process. We acknowledge that respondents are entitled to the presumption of innocence. For the purposes of its own investigation and behaviour

management interventions, the College acts according to an appropriate standard of proof.

Seeking Support – within the College

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:

- Head of College
- Dean
- Director of Learning
- Chaplain
- Assistant Deans
- Residential Advisors.

Seeking Support – other sources

Aside from the sources of support at College, there are many other support services for anyone who would like to learn more about drug use and addiction.

Support persons at College can help anyone affected to access these services.

[Drug and Alcohol Services of South Australia](#)

[Headspace](#)

[University of Adelaide counselling service](#)

[University of South Australia counselling service](#)

[Flinders University counselling service](#)

[Legal Services Commission of SA](#)

[SA Police – Emergency assistance \(including ambulance\): phone 000; non-urgent police assistance: phone 131 444](#)

Education and training

The College recognises its obligation to take all reasonable measures to ensure that up to date and relevant information is made available to resident students about the effects, both short and longer term, of using illegal substances and the misuse of prescribed medication.

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

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis at the start of each year, prior to publication in the student Handbook and on the student portal, to ensure that it is compliant with best practice management and the College's legal obligations.

This policy may be reviewed and revised at other times also.

Policy created: June 2018

Policy updated: June 2018, February 2020

Policy authorised by: Head of College

Date to be reviewed: January/February 2021