

PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE

DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY



POLICY DATE: 2022

REVIEW DATE: 2022- 2026

APPROVED BY: The Principal – David Russell

Rationale

The use of drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceutical drugs is common in our society. Our students are exposed to drug-related issues at home, school and in the wider community. At this school, the appropriate skills and knowledge in relation to drugs, drug use and abuse will be taught to our students in the Drug Education component of Health Education classes. The aim is to prevent/minimise drug-related harm to them and the community.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that a balanced, consistent and informed approach to student drug use is adopted and implemented by the College community. It is recognised that in the process of developing their decision-making skills some students may make errors of judgement. At all times, however, the dignity of students must be preserved, even though their behaviour may not be condoned. All student welfare and discipline procedures are therefore underpinned by the principles of fairness, compassion and consistency and are to be implemented accordingly.

It is recognised that drug use is a complex issue and that there may be a variety of contributing factors to student drug use. It is intended, therefore, that the College's student welfare and discipline measures be as comprehensive as possible, at all times aiming to provide care for individual students, and above all, protection for all involved in the College community. The College will treat drug use as a health matter, combined with the Student Code of Conduct. The College is mindful of the fact that drug use in many forms is illegal and appropriate authorities need to be involved. The Principal must be informed of illegal activities of students.

It is also recognised that despite the opinions individuals may have, drug use may involve legal consequences, particularly regarding trafficking in and/or possession/use of illegal drugs. Members of the College Community are subject to these laws both on and off the campus and as citizens of the state are bound to uphold the law. The violation of these laws may involve matters being referred to the police.

The College relies heavily on the advice and expertise of agencies outside the school, and has on-going relationships with Central Bayside Community Health Service, Directline, Family Drug Help, Kingston Youth Services and Southern Family Life.

Parkdale Secondary College does not permit students to:

- possess or smoke tobacco products (or be in possession of cigarette lighters or matches)
- possess or consume alcohol
- possess or deliberately inhale solvents
- possess or use drugs not prescribed for them
- possess or use illegal drugs
- possess or use 'over the counter' or prescription drugs prescribed for them without prior arrangement between the parent/guardian, YLC, First Aid Officer and/or the Student Wellbeing Coordinator
- be in the company of others engaged in the above behaviour.

These provisions apply to:

- anywhere on the College premises or
- while in uniform travelling to or from the College or
- any official College activity, camp, excursion, rehearsal or performance.

CIGARETTE SMOKING & VAPING

First Offence

Students who are found smoking or vaping, in the company of smokers/vapers or in the possession of cigarettes, vape pens or other tobacco products will be dealt with in the following manner:

- confiscation of cigarettes, vape pens, and any associated products
- directed to the appropriate Year Level Coordinator or Assistant Principal immediately
- automatic Principal's detention and undertake an anti-smoking education program, which could include harms of smoking, steps to quitting, effects of passive smoking on others
- parents are contacted by the Year Level Coordinator

Second Offence

Students who are found smoking or vaping, in the company of smokers/vapers or in the possession of cigarettes, vape pens or other tobacco products on more than one occasion will be dealt with in the following manner:

- confiscation of cigarettes, vape pens, and any associated products
- directed to the appropriate Year Level Coordinator or Assistant Principal immediately
- **two** Principal's detentions, where counselling with the SWC will occur

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- parents are contacted by the Year Level Coordinator and a warning letter will be sent home
- Removal of locker privileges – student will be allocated a locker in the Principals area.
- Be required to present to YLC for daily bag checks.

ALCOHOL & ILLICIT DRUGS

Students who are found engaged in the following:

- drinking or under the influence of alcohol or in the possession of alcohol;
 - misusing, in the possession of, or under the influence of, solvents;
 - using, or in the possession of, or under the influence of, drugs not prescribed for them;
 - using, or in the possession of, or under the influence of, illegal drugs;
- will be suspended from the College pending a conference with parents.

Depending on the number of offences the consequences may include:

- Restricted recess and lunchtime
- Restricted access to College grounds
- Suspension from the College
- Withdrawal from the College
- Referral to College Psychologist/outside agency
- Referral to police
- Referral to Human Service

Students who are found to be trafficking illegal drugs will be suspended from the College pending further discussion with parents regarding possible expulsion and the College will inform the police.

INTERVENTION PROCEDURES FOR ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUG USE

Intervention procedures are intended to:

- ensure a safe environment for all members of the College community
- provide support and care for all individual students
- provide referral for those using drugs
- prevent further deterioration in the health of those using drugs inappropriately.

If a staff member **suspects** that a student is using drugs inappropriately or is suffering from the effects of using drugs inappropriately, (s)he should inform the Year Level Coordinator, Assistant Principal and/or SWC of such suspicions as soon as possible to allow appropriate action/support to be taken.

If a staff member **finds** a student using drugs inappropriately, or observes that a student is suffering from the effects of using drugs inappropriately, (s)he should take the following action:

- stay calm (sometimes easier said than done);
- take appropriate safety precautions to ensure the safety of the student and others involved (e.g. summon first aid, isolate the student, confiscate the drugs as appropriate etc.) keeping in mind personal safety;
- seek assistance as quickly as possible and by whatever means are most appropriate – Year Level Coordinator, Principal Class, First Aid;
- ascertain **if possible**, the following facts, remembering **SAFETY COMES FIRST**:
 - 1) the type of drug taken
 - 2) how much of the drug was taken
 - 3) how it was taken
 - 4) whether the student has any past experience with the drug
 - 5) the situation in which the student took the drug
 - 6) whether more than one type of drug was taken
- document the incident as soon as possible and refer it to the appropriate person e.g.; Year Level Coordinator, Principal Class, First Aid or SWC

IF THE INCIDENT OCCURS OFF CAMPUS, THE STAFF MEMBER SHOULD TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE STUDENTS AND OTHERS AND TO SEEK ASSISTANCE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. IT IS ALSO YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE PRINCIPAL IS NOTIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following way:

- Published on Compass
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

EVALUATION

The Assistant Principal – Wellbeing and the School Improvement Team – Wellbeing executive, will be responsible for the review of this policy.