

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Mindarie Senior College

Our Purpose

At Mindarie Senior College, we place the needs and well-being of our students at the centre of our policies. Our priority is harm minimisation and education which aims to support students in making informed, independent decisions about their health. Adolescents are particularly susceptible to addiction as a result of factors including, peer pressure, media influence and targeted marketing.

It is hoped that by developing independent and responsible young adults, students will be better equipped to make important present and future decisions about their health and well-being. As a part of this approach, we seek to educate first, but also ensure students are aware of the consequences of their actions, which may be illegal under West Australian law.

Addressing drug and alcohol use at Mindarie Senior College

The College takes the following steps to address drug and alcohol use at the College:

- Display of health promotion materials in areas of frequent student traffic
- Assemblies dedicated to the risks associated with drug and alcohol use
- Individual student meetings aimed at providing risk education
- Confidential addiction counselling through the appointed Community Nurse*
- Referral to external support as required

**Students can self-refer or see a member of the Student Services team for a referral to the College Nurse.*

Relevant West Australian law and Department of Education WA Policy

E-Cigarettes: It is illegal in WA to sell e-cigarette devices and nicotine vaping products to anyone regardless of age, unless they are:

- prescribed by a doctor for smoking cessation purposes
- obtained with a prescription from a pharmacy.

In WA, e-cigarette devices and their components, whether or not they contain nicotine, cannot be sold by tobacco or general retailers. It is illegal to sell vapes to friends at school or in the community.

Cigarettes: It is illegal in WA for anyone to sell cigarettes to anyone under the age of 18. This includes herbs and other things that are smoked, even if they do not contain tobacco. Anyone who sells cigarettes to someone under 18 can be heavily fined. It is also against the law for someone over 18 to buy cigarettes for a minor. Anyone who does can be fined.

It is against the law to smoke in enclosed public places in Western Australia. Enclosed public places are places that are open to the public, have a roof, and are mostly surrounded by walls (even if there are doors or open passageways). This includes schools, colleges and universities.

You cannot smoke in a car if there is someone younger than 17 in the car. If you are caught, you can be:

- be given a warning or caution; or
- be fined \$200 on the spot by the police; or
- choose to have the matter decided by a court (which may fine you up to \$1,000 if convicted).

Work Health and Safety Procedures related to tobacco use:

School leaders are required to provide a smoke-free environment. This includes an environment free from tobacco and e-cigarettes.

Drugs and Alcohol:

Student possession or use of alcohol or other drugs on school grounds or at off-site events is:

- not acceptable under any circumstances
- a behaviour of concern that is harmful to self or others
- a breach of the expected positive behaviours as outlined in the whole school behaviour support approach.

Drinking in a public place: It is an offence in Western Australia for persons of any age to drink in public, such as on the street, park or beach. PENALTY: \$200 infringement or maximum \$2000 fine.

Possession of alcohol: It is an offence for juveniles to possess liquor in a public place. PENALTY: \$200 infringement or maximum \$2000 fine.

Application of the Policy

The possession, supply or sale of restricted or illegal substances by students on school sites or at off-site events is to be considered a breach of school discipline. The Policy also applies to students who are off College campus but wearing College uniform.

This Policy extends to any supply or sale of restricted or illegal substances by a student that occurs outside the school that contributes to another student presenting at school or at an off-site school activity with suspected intoxication.

Use, possession or distribution of any items referenced in this Policy may result in a suspension, and removal of privileges such as, but not limited to, attendance at: the College, Ball, Year 12 Leaver's Breakfast, Year 12 Presentation Evening.

All incidents of substance possession, use and distribution should be referred to the Student Services Manager or relevant Associate Principal.