



THE FRIENDS' SCHOOL

DRUG GUIDELINES

The guidelines are written to promote the health and safety of the Friends' community.

These Drug Guidelines have been formulated with the assistance of a consultant from the Drug Education Network, by a committee representing students, parents and staff. These guidelines are in accord with policies approved by the Board of Governors of The Friends' School. The guidelines were developed in order to establish and clarify The Friends' School community's expectations regarding:

- medications
- legal drugs such as alcohol and tobacco
- illegal substances.

We believe that consistent, ongoing guidelines and procedures will provide a clear message to the School community, which will result in appropriate action in addressing issues in terms of both prevention and intervention.

These guidelines apply to all members of the school community – students, staff, visitors, parents and friends – while on all programs, activities and official functions in any way connected with The Friends' School.

These guidelines are to be widely disseminated and publicised to ensure that all members of the School community are aware of their provisions.

These guidelines are reviewed annually.

Prevention

The School has a preventative drug education program, as an integral part of the Kindergarten – Year 12 Health curriculum, which aims to:

- promote a sense of high personal worth
- develop attitudes and social skills that will minimise the harmful consequences of drug use
- develop an understanding that the effects of drug use can vary in different circumstances
- develop effective methods of resisting social and emotional pressures to use drugs
- promote awareness of the legal, health and social implications of drug use.

In support of these aims, The Friends' School asks all adult members of the School community to be aware of their influence as role models. We encourage parents to be partners in the educational process.

School Expectations

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students, all students are required to provide the School with all relevant, current medical information and to update it as the need arises. Due to our concern for the health and wellbeing of Friends' students, the following applies:



Analgesics

Inappropriate use of analgesics (non-prescribed eg, aspirin and paracetamol) is discouraged and analgesics may be taken only in special situations such as fever, injury or where alternatives have been tried and parents have given permission on the medical form.

Where analgesics supplied by the School are administered to students, the date, time and dose must be recorded in the student's file on the student database and on the medication administration register.

Prescribed Drugs and Other Medicine

Inappropriate use of both prescribed and over-the-counter medicines is discouraged.

Students requiring medication are encouraged to take the medication at home rather than at School, whenever possible.

Parents should ensure that children know how to use their own medicines responsibly.

Students should on no account pass their medicines onto other students.

Tobacco

We recognise the health risks associated with tobacco use and consequently The Friends' School is a smoke-free zone.

Students are not permitted to smoke tobacco during School hours, at School-related activities or while travelling to or from School.

Adults are asked not to smoke while at off-campus School-related activities.

Alcohol

We recognise the legal sanctions on drinking in this State and that alcohol abuse is a major problem. We promote the idea that alcohol is not needed to make a social activity enjoyable.

Students are not permitted to use or possess alcohol at School or School-related activities.

Staff and other adults may not consume alcoholic drinks while responsible for the safety of students.

Adults are asked to remember their influence as role models and to be aware of the Quaker ideals of Moderation and Temperance at all School-related activities.

The School does not prohibit adult consumption of alcoholic drinks in particular places on the School premises, on specified occasions, at functions for adults, but only after written permission has been given by the Principal. Non-alcoholic drinks will always be available at such occasions.

We encourage fundraising activities without an emphasis on alcohol consumption. Any fundraising involving alcohol must not be advertised in official School publications, and, with the exception of instances given approval by the Principal, alcohol is not allowed on the School's premises.

Official School publications must not promote alcohol.



Other Drugs

We recognise the potential harm of illicit drug use and therefore the School prohibits the:

- use, possession or sale of illegal drugs such as marijuana
- inappropriate use of solvents and other chemical agents
- possession of bongos or other drug-related objects not specified as medically required or on medical records
- inappropriate use of prescription or non-prescription medication
- inappropriate use of drugs in sport.

Intervention

If these guidelines are breached, action appropriate to the breach will be taken. Where intervention is required, the School supports a positive and supportive approach that will endeavour to modify inappropriate student behaviour.

Where breaches of the School guidelines involve the use of medications, the parents will be informed and appropriate help will be sought.

Suspension

Suspension of a student is a very serious matter and occurs only after consultation between the Principal and the appropriate Head(s) of School. In reaching their decision, they will take into account the welfare of the whole School community as well as the welfare of the individual under consideration. Parents will be informed as soon as possible of the decision.

It is intended that suspension will make students fully aware of the seriousness of their breach of School discipline. Part of the suspension procedure requires a student to sign a formal, written contract in the presence of his/her parents, acknowledging his/her understanding that a final warning has been given and that a more positive contribution to School life is required.

We believe that it is important that advice and support be sought for students and families involved in breaches of these guidelines.

After a warning, a student who continues to smoke while on School premises, at any School-related activities or travelling to or from School, will be suspended for a period of time at the Principal's discretion. Quit smoking programs will be made available to students.

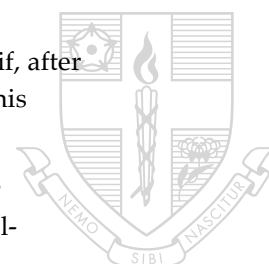
A student who possesses or consumes an illegal or illegally-supplied prescription drug or alcohol while in School uniform, at School, involved in any School-related activity, or travelling to or from School may be suspended at the Principal's discretion.

If, in the teachers' opinion, a student has arrived at a School-related function under the influence of alcohol or other substances, parents will be called to collect their child.

Expulsion

Students will be supported at all stages of due process; however, expulsion is applied if, after a period of suspension with its formal, final warning, a student persists in breaching this policy.

If a student is found to be providing, buying, selling or involved in any transaction for prescription or illegal drugs while in School uniform, at School, involved in any School-



related activity or travelling to or from School, he/she will be expelled, whether there has been any previous warning or not.

If these guidelines are breached by adults, they will be asked to desist and the Board of Governors advised so that any further action deemed necessary may be taken.

