



St Dominic's Priory College

Prohibited Substances Policy

Last Review Date	Next Review Date
August 2024	August 2026
Responsible Officer	College Principal



Our Mission

A Catholic College educating girls in the Dominican Tradition.

Our Vision

Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are a girls' College committed to truth and compassion. In the spirit of St Dominic, we contemplate the possibilities and honour the sacred dignity of each person through word and action. We aspire to provide an innovative, rigorous and inclusive education that leads girls and young women to achieve excellence in their studies and confidence in their future.

Our Values

As a Dominican community, we value:

- A sense of the sacred; joyful, eucharistic and reflective.
- A love of learning through creative and critical thinking.
- Modelling a eucharistic community as the basis of transformation.
- Teaching the truth, by word and example.

Further information about the College's principles and objectives can be found within the College Strategic Plan.

Governance

St Dominic's Priory College is one of the education ministries of Dominican Education Australia (DEA). DEA has oversight of six schools and appoints for each a governing Board of Directors, which is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cwlth)*. The Trustees of DEA and the College Board of Directors assure our Catholicity, fidelity to the Dominican Charism, formation of Board members, excellence in teaching and learning and financial stability. The Principal is the Chief Executive Officer of the College and is accountable to the Board for its internal administration and management.

For more information about DEA visit: <https://dominicaneducationaustralia.com/>

Child Safe

We are a Child Safe employer and are committed to the welfare and protection of children and young people. The College is committed to upholding a diverse and inclusive learning environment, ensuring children and young people are valued and respected. In accordance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, all employees are required to comply with the College's relevant policies and procedures.

To read the College's **Safeguarding Commitment Statement** in full, and access *College Policies, Procedures* and other resources, please visit the College website.

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 St Dominic's Priory College ('the College') is a place where the opportunity for learning and growth is at the heart of our student behaviour education process. This Policy reminds community members that Prohibited Substances do not belong in our community.
- 1.2 This policy applies to all students enrolled at the College and extends to all school activities, including curriculum extension activities and functions held outside of normal school hours. It is supported by parents/guardians and staff working within or for St Dominic's Priory College.
- 1.3 The principle of harm minimisation informs this Policy. This involves a range of strategies and approaches that contribute to the prevention and reduction of the harmful consequences of Prohibited Substance use for the individual, society and the College.

2. Rationale

- 2.1 In realising our mission and vision, and recognising our moral and legal obligations, St Dominic's Priory College aims to provide a safe, secure, and healthy environment for all its students.
- 2.2 For the purpose of this Policy, the College identifies a 'prohibited substance' as:
 - 2.2.a against the law;
 - 2.2.b having the potential to seriously harm students; and
 - 2.2.c a potential threat to the safety of the community.
- 2.3 This policy is embedded within a whole-school strategy aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle and wise decision-making.

3. Definitions

3.1 ***Prohibited Substance***

A '*prohibited substance*' is defined as:

- 3.1.a any substance declared illegal under South Australian law;
- 3.1.b a substance which is unlawful for a person under the age of 18 years to possess or consume;
- 3.1.c a substance which a student possesses with the intention of misusing, such as solvents, aerosols, or other chemical agents;
- 3.1.d prescription medication that is not used in accordance with the prescription;
- 3.1.e alcohol, nicotine, tobacco, or electronic cigarettes ('vapes'); or
- 3.1.f drug-related equipment, such as that which is used to consume drugs.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.1 The welfare of a student in possession of, or affected by, Prohibited Substances will be paramount in the first instance. This clause does not, however, affect potential consequences for a breach of this Policy.
- 4.2 A drug and alcohol education program is part of the College's Child Protection Curriculum.
- 4.3 There is no sanction for the use of legal substances for a special event (e.g., permitting alcohol to be consumed by people over the age of 18 years or for Year 12 Graduation).
- 4.4 Where there is a reasonable suspicion that a student has a Prohibited Substance in their possession, the Principal or appointed nominee, accompanied by another adult, may request to search that student's person, possessions, locker, or bag. Where a student refuses to comply with a request the Principal or appointed nominee:
 - 4.4.a will contact the student's parents/guardian to request for them to attend the College immediately; and;
 - 4.4.b may contact South Australian Police (SAPOL) to attend the College to complete the search.
- 4.5 In determining a response to a breach of this Policy, the Principal or nominee will consider the:
 - 4.5.a nature and seriousness of the incident;
 - 4.5.b circumstances of the student or students involved, including age and developmental considerations;
 - 4.5.c the welfare of the student and the family;
 - 4.5.d the welfare and expectations of the general College community; and
 - 4.5.e the needs and safety of others in the College.
- 4.6 Notwithstanding the considerations set out above, a breach of this Policy will invoke serious consequences, which may include:
 - 4.6.a suspension (from one to five days);
 - 4.6.b a negotiated behavioural contract between the student, parent/guardian(s) and the College;
 - 4.6.c expulsion (provided the student is aged over 16), withdrawal of enrolment, or negotiated transfer of the student.
- 4.7 The Principal may also refer a breach of this Policy to SAPOL, inviting them to:
 - 4.7.a attend the College to seize a *prohibited substance*; or
 - 4.7.b otherwise intervene as SAPOL sees fit.

5. Related Policies, Procedures, and Resources

The policies, codes and procedures listed below complement and support St Dominic's Priory College's Prohibited Substances Policy:

St Dominic's Priory College Academic Honesty Policy

St Dominic's Priory College Administration of Medication Policy

St Dominic's Priory College Child and Young Person Safe Environments Policy

St Dominic's Priory College Community Grievance Policy (Students and Community)

St Dominic's Priory College Planner Student Expectations and Procedures

St Dominic's Priory College Planner Harassment – Procedure and Guidelines

St Dominic's Priory College Safeguarding Children and Young People suite:

Safeguarding Children and Young People Commitment Statement

Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct

Safeguarding Children and Young People Terms of Reference

St Dominic's Priory College Wellbeing Framework

6. Revision Record

Document Title	Prohibited Substances Policy					
Document Type	Policy					
Document Date	August 2026					
Process Owner	College Principal	Dr Helen Steele				
Approval Authority	College Board					
Review Date	2024; 2026; 2029 (or earlier as required)					
Distribution	Website	☒	SEQTA	☒	Sharepoint	☒
History	Edition	Date	Description of change			
	1.0	2024	Drafted			
	2.0	2026	Reviewed			