



**ST DOMINIC'S
PRIORY COLLEGE**

EDUCATING GIRLS, INSPIRING CONFIDENCE

inspiring confidence

ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY COLLEGE

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES POLICY

LAST REVIEW DATE	NEXT REVIEW DATE
August 2024	August 2026
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	College Principal

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We acknowledge St Dominic's Priory College is situated on Kurna Land and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.



PREFACE

MISSION

A Catholic College educating girls in the Dominican tradition.

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.

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 for transformation.
- Teaching the truth, by word and example.

Further information about the College's principles and objectives can be found within the [2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan](#).

GOVERNANCE

Dominican Education Australia (DEA) is the governing authority of St Dominic's Priory College, an independent Catholic School. A Board of Directors, established in 1987, governs the College which is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cwlth)*. The Trustees of DEA and the College Board of Directors assures our Catholicity, fidelity to the Dominican charism, formation of Board members, excellence in teaching and learning and financial stability.

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 [click here](#)

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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 a thriving community.
- 1.2 This policy applies to all students enrolled at the College and extends to all school activities, including curriculum extension activities, out of normal school hours official school functions. 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 purposes of this Policy, key terms have been defined below.
 - 2.2a against the law;
 - 2.2b has the potential to seriously harm students; and
 - 2.2c threatens 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:

- 3.1a any substance declared illegal under South Australian law;
- 3.1b a substance which is unlawful for a person under the age of 18 years to possess or consume, such as alcohol or tobacco;
- 3.1c a substance which is not declared illegal but which a student possesses with the intention of misusing such as solvents, other chemical agents or nitrous oxide;
- 3.1d prescription medication that is not prescribed, or used in accordance with the prescription.
- 3.1e vapes' or electronic cigarettes; or
- 3.1f 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 will be part of the school curriculum.
- 4.3 There is no sanction for the use of legal substances which would ordinarily constitute a Prohibited Substance (such as alcohol) for a special event (e.g., permitting alcohol to be consumed on College premises 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 may:
- 4.4a contact the student's parents/guardian to request for them to attend the College immediately; and
 - 4.4b contact 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:
- 4.5a nature and seriousness of the incident;
 - 4.5b circumstances of the student or students involved, including age and developmental considerations;
 - 4.5c welfare of the student and the family;
 - 4.5d the welfare and expectations of the general College community; and
 - 4.5e 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 penalties, including:
- 4.6a suspension;
 - 4.6b placement upon a negotiated contract between student, parent/guardian and the College; or
 - 4.6c expulsion, 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:
- 4.7a attend the College to seize a Prohibited Substance; or
 - 4.7b otherwise intervene as SAPOL sees fit.

5. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND RESOURCES

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

- Student Expectations & Procedures
- Wellbeing Policy
- Bullying and Harassment Prevention Policy
- Administration of Medication Policy
- 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 Young People Terms of Reference
- Child & Young Person Safe Environments Policy

6. REVISION RECORD

Document Title	Prohibitive Substances Policy					
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Document Date	August 2024					
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