



<b>POLICY:</b>	Student Alcohol Policy
<b>FIRST DRAFT:</b>	ET 2016#09
<b>ADOPTED:</b>	UR 2016#04 <i>pro-tem</i> <sup>1</sup> UR 2017#01
<b>AMENDMENTS:</b>	New Policy – None to Date
<b>REVIEW:</b>	March 2021

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to consultation in accordance with the Protocol for Policy Development

## 1.0 POLICY OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 The primary aim of the MIC Student Alcohol Policy is to encourage and support students to avoid problems linked to the misuse of alcohol in the context of their student experience at the College. It is the position of the College that misuse of alcohol by students poses a risk to health and well-being and, at a wider remove, is a threat to the quality of the student experience, including individual achievement of positive academic outcomes.
- 1.2 The position of the College in relation to misuse of alcohol and the substance of this policy is derived from research and best practice in relation to the quality of the student experience at higher education institutions and also health promotion in the higher education context. The *National Alcohol Policy*, published in 1996, seeks to promote the health of the population by reducing the prevalence of alcohol-related problems and contains a specific recommendation that higher education institutions should develop “*a campus alcohol policy that would promote sensible drinking among students who choose to drink and limit campus-related drink industry sponsorships.*” In October 2001, the Minister for Health & Children launched *Framework Document for Developing a College Alcohol Policy*. As a designated ‘**Health Promoting College**’, MIC observes the principles of health promotion relating to alcohol consumption as set out by the Health Promotion Unit of the Health Service Executive (HSE).
- 1.3 The MIC Student Alcohol Policy sets out:
- A) the key mechanisms by which the College seeks to promote awareness of the risks to the student experience caused by misuse of alcohol, and to limit these risks within the context of the student experience where this is specifically within the authority of MIC – i.e the institutional regulatory purview (see Section 3.0, below);
  - B) salient information aimed at supporting students to avoid or manage problems linked to the misuse of alcohol – i.e. the institutional advisory purview (see Section 4.0, below).

## 2.0 SCOPE OF POLICY

- 2.1 The MIC Student Alcohol Policy is aimed at students of the College and is, primarily, an instrument designed to support students' enjoyment of a high quality learning experience while enrolled at MIC, as well as to assist students to make choices that contribute positively to their health and well-being.
- 2.2 MIC limits its **regulatory** purview in relation to the consumption of alcohol to the context of the student experience for enrolled students of the College. This means that the MIC Student Alcohol Policy relates to formal activities that are provided to students as part of their approved learning experience.
- 2.3 MIC extends its **advisory** purview in relation to the consumption of alcohol (including information aimed at the health and well-being of students) beyond the formal scope of institutional regulation insofar as general awareness-raising in respect of the risks associated with misuse of alcohol is of benefit to students' health and well-being, as well as to the quality of their learning experiences. MIC acts within its advisory purview in a manner that is consistent with statutory policy on health and well-being in a higher education context, as well as its duty of care in respect of enrolled students.
- 2.4 While the College seeks to promote awareness of issues arising from misuse of alcohol in line with its commitment to a high quality learning experience for its enrolled students and out of concern for their general health and welfare, MIC does not accept responsibility for negative effects arising from any given student's misuse of alcohol including any detrimental effects such may have on a) that student's health and well-being and/or b) that student's academic outcomes.
- 2.5 Where an individual student's behaviour while under the influence of alcohol has the effect of a) disrupting formal academic or non-academic activities (either on campus or off-campus) and/or b) threatening or risking the harm or well-being of other members of the College community (including MIC students, staff or visitors), such behaviour will be dealt with outside of the scope of the Student Alcohol Policy. In such instances College policies and procedures intended for

response to alleged breaches of the MIC Student Code of Conduct, including formal disciplinary procedures, will apply.

- 2.6 The MIC Student Alcohol Policy has been adopted by *An Bord Rialaithe*, the Governing Authority of the College, at the recommendation of the College's Executive Team (ET). The Student Alcohol Policy has been informed by advice provided by the MIC Health Promoting College Committee (a standing committee of the Executive Team that includes staff and student representation), and by the College's Student Life function, in order to present a document that is based on research, policy and best practice in the combined areas of health promotion at higher education and the student experience. The essential input of the MIC Students' Union (MISU) in supporting the health and well-being of students, as well as the quality of campus life for students, has also informed the Student Alcohol Policy.

### **3.0 REGULATORY MANAGEMENT OF ALCOHOL SALES**

#### **3.1 SALE OF ALCOHOL**

- 3.1.1 Normally, there shall be no provision of alcohol for sale on the MIC campus under licence. Approved exceptions to this shall include the following:

- Permission granted for requests to provide a temporary bar facility where alcohol may be purchased may be sought and approved through ET. In its consideration of such requests ET shall have regard to the scope and content of this policy and to statutory regulation of the sales and promotion of alcohol and of its consumption.
- Alcohol sale under licence by the Lime Tree Theatre during public performance events taking place after 6pm

#### **3.2 ALCOHOL MARKETING, PROMOTIONS & ADVERTISING**

- 3.2.1 Marketing, promotional activities and sponsored advertising of alcohol provision and/or sales by third party commercial and non-commercial parties may not take place on campus or during off-campus activities or events that are managed by the College as part of the formal, approved academic and non-academic student

experience. This applies to posters, concessions, e-mail, newsletters or other publications (online or otherwise) attempting to utilise the physical campus infrastructure as well as the College ICT Services network infrastructure, e-mail system, VLEs or social media platforms controlled by the MIC.

#### **4.0 INFORMATION & AWARENESS**

- 4.1 The College adopts an advisory role in respect of alcohol consumption by its students. This role entails information and awareness-raising about the known risks associated with misuse of alcohol and is prompted and informed by the College's duty of care in respect of its students, specifically in relation students' health and well-being while on campus or engaged in activities while off-campus, as well as the quality of their learning experiences.

The following student support services have a remit to implement the College's advisory role in relation to information and awareness-raising in respect of alcohol consumption and do so routinely in a variety of contexts, fora and media:

- **MIC Counselling Service**

The College has two counsellors on campus. Any student experiencing a problem may contact the counsellors and arrange an appointment. The counsellors will, if necessary, advise the individuals on access to further advice and/or treatment by external services.

- **The Health Promotion Service:**

Students experiencing a problem may contact the Health Promotion Office and they will be provided with details of how to access relevant support/treatment service.

- **Chaplaincy Service:**

The College offers a Chaplaincy service on campus. It is possible to discuss issues of concern in complete confidence with any member of the Chaplaincy Team.

■ Medical Centre:

The College Medical Centre is available to provide advice and diagnosis in relation to the physical, mental and emotional effects of excessive alcohol consumption. Referral to relevant support/treatment by external services will be made if required.

## **5.0 POLICY REVIEW**

- 5.1 This policy will be reviewed at 5-year intervals, except where statutory provisions or other regulatory measures introduced by the College require review and amendment to take place sooner.

## **6.0 EQUALITY STATEMENT**

All policies, guidelines and protocols of Mary Immaculate College, will reflect the Colleges commitment to the promotion of equality and will be fully compliant with the provisions of prevailing equality legislation.