

Drug and Alcohol (*and/or other Harmful Substances*)* Policy

- * The use of the word 'drug' in this policy refers to all illegal, harmful or intoxicating substances (eg alcohol, cannabis, etc).

Rationale

The Board aims to have a drug free school where students under the control of the school are safe from the influences of drugs. The Board believes the use of drugs can be detrimental to student learning and health. The use and/or possession of drugs is a major discipline issue and a major health issue. The Board and the School see its disciplinary powers as an opportunity to support students in overcoming drug problems.

Guidelines

1. Every effort will be made to detect and eliminate the possessing, distribution or use of drugs during the school day or activities.
2. The school will endeavour to educate the wider school community, caregivers and students about drugs to try and improve their awareness and strategies in dealing with the problem.
3. Coming to school under the influence of drugs, alcohol and/or harmful substances even though the usage may have occurred in the persons own time or off-site is a discipline issue.
4. Where the school suspects a student or staff member of being under the influence of drugs, a drug screening test may be requested of the student or staff member. Parents/caregivers must be contacted first and permission is necessary from a parent/caregiver and student (or staff member in that instance) before such a test can be administered.
5. Where a student or staff member is suspected of drug usage and/or possession of drugs, the school must ensure that the student's/staff members rights and safety as respected and observed.
6. The school may use search and seizure procedures to gather evidence as necessary but within the provisions of the relevant legislation (eg The Human Rights Act and the Bill of Rights).

Signed

_____ **Chairperson**
_____ **Date**
_____ **Review Date**

7. The school will develop appropriate search and seizure procedures and these will only be carried out by members of Senior Management and/or the Guidance Counsellor.
8. The school will provide drug education programmes to support students in overcoming drug problems if appropriate.
9. The school will deliver appropriate drug and alcohol education as part of its health programmes.
10. The school will if it deems appropriate, refer students and their families to an Alcohol & Drug Counsellor for support and education with issues concerning alcohol and other drug use.
11. Drug dealing is a serious offence that may involve a referral to the Police as well as a response from the school. (Possession, distribution and sale of drugs is a criminal offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975).
12. The school may require a student to enter into an individual contract if it deems appropriate. This contract will include screening tests and a referral to the Youth Alcohol and Drug Counsellor for both students and her/his caregiver(s).
13. Where a student resists treatment and continues with drug usage despite their contract with the school, they face the possibility of reappearing before the Board's Discipline Committee. Expulsion is a possible result from this hearing. The school will expect students to aim to become drug free.
14. The school will ensure that from time to time staff will receive training on recognising drug use or the effects and signs of drug use.
15. The school has the right to insist compliance with all school rules / use drug free contracts as a condition for participation in school provided activities (eg sports teams, drama productions, tournaments, trips away).
16. All activities and functions involving students including the school ball are to be drug and alcohol free.
17. The Leaver's Dinner may allow alcohol to be served in accordance with New Zealand Law relating to alcohol usage.
18. Staff members directly supervising students must not be under the influence of or partake of alcohol or drugs.

19. Alcohol may be consumed by staff on school premises for the purposes of staff social activity. This is at the discretion of the Principal. On these occasions there will be a designated responsible host to ensure:
 - a) Non-alcoholic drinks will be made available
 - b) Food will be provided
 - c) Everyone is asked to drink sensibly and moderately
 - d) Drivers are reminded that drinking and driving is inappropriate and unsafe.

20. Outside groups who wish to provide alcohol when using or hiring school premises must seek permission from the Principal. Any minors associated with these groups must be with and under the control of their parents/caregivers.