



DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND OTHER MIND-ALTERING SUBSTANCES

Rationale:

NELP Priority 1 requires Boards of Trustees to provide a safe school environment. This includes an environment free of the influence of drugs, alcohol or other mind-altering substances.

Purpose:

To define, manage and prevent unacceptable behaviour specifically related to drugs, alcohol and other mind-altering substances.

Definitions:

Mind-altering substance - drugs, alcohol or other chemical substances that alter brain function and result in changes to perception, mood, consciousness or behaviour, whether illicit or not, other than those prescribed by a GP.

Scope:

This policy applies to all students while participating in school activities, whether on school grounds or outside the school. The policy includes students who are on the way to school or after school if they can be identified with the school through their uniform or the activities they are participating in.

Guidelines:

Policy

Students are not permitted to:

- Bring mind-altering substances to school for supply
- Be in possession of mind-altering substances at school
- Consume mind-altering substances at school
- Associate with other students who are participating in any of the above

Education and Guidance

School health programmes will offer information and skills to help students establish responsible attitudes towards drugs, alcohol and other mind-altering substances.

Counselling will be made available for students who have problems with drugs, alcohol and other mind-altering substances.

The programmes will consist of five components

1. Generic Awareness
2. School Curriculum
3. Programmes for students 'at risk'
4. Staff professional development



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1.0 Generic Awareness

- 1.1 The wider school community (students, caregivers, public etc) will be made aware of the school's policy on
- mind-altering substances being on school property.
 - students being found in possession of or under the influence of mind-altering substances while under the jurisdiction of the school
- 1.2 Appropriate community speakers will give awareness presentations at assemblies as available.
- 1.3 Students will be regularly reminded both in writing and verbally, that having or consuming mind-altering substances at school is absolutely forbidden.

2.0 School Curriculum

- 2.1 Year 9 and Year 10 students will receive health education regarding tobacco, alcohol, cannabis and other mind-altering substances.
- 2.2 Students taking Hauora/Health in Year 11, 12 and 13 will cover aspects of drug and substance use/misuse/abuse as prescribed by NCEA achievement standards.

3.0 Programme for students 'at risk'

- 3.1 The school will provide a service for parents who have concerns regarding perceived student drug issues.
- 3.2 The school will set in place, an intense intervention programme for students with a perceived 'at risk' factor.
- 3.3 Community services will be identified for inter-sectoral work within this programme.

4.0 Staff

- 4.1 Staff will provide exemplary role models for students in their attitudes and practices in respect to mind-altering substances. This will be especially important where staff are responsible for extracurricular activities.
- 4.2 Teaching staff will undertake the appropriate professional development in the area of awareness of mind-altering substances.

Related Policies:

1. Safe School
2. Surveillance, Search and Seizure



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References or Sources:

3. NELP Priority 1

Review Details:

Review Date	Reviewed by
Mar 2023	SMK
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Management Contact:

- Principal