

POLICY ON DRUG EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DRUG ISSUES

Definition:

A drug is defined as being **tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, and other substances (such as volatile substances eg petrol, solvents and inhalants)** used for psycho-active effects, recreation, or enhancement, as well as **prescription and pharmacy-only drugs** used outside medical or pharmaceutical advice.

Policy Statement

The Board of Trustees recognises that while both legal and illegal drug use maybe a fact of life in contemporary society, evidence clearly shows that students cannot maximise their learning or reach their potential whilst they are regular users of these drugs. The Board of Trustees regards drug abuse by school students as an extremely serious health and disciplinary issue.

Drug abuse can have serious effects on the mental health of our young people. Alcohol abuse is of particular concern.

Purposes

- a. To discourage all unnecessary drug use that may be detrimental to the health and well-being of students.
- b. To create an environment where students are educated about drugs and drug issues by developing and maintaining a programme of drug education for Years 9-13.
- c. To ensure that students clearly understand the consequences of drug abuse/use.
- d. To further develop strong disciplinary procedures for dealing with drug abuse/use issues at school.

Guidelines

The school will provide students education about drug issues. The aim is to ensure that students are informed about drugs and related issues, implications of drug use and the possible harm to themselves and the community.

Napier Girls' High School promotes and endorses a drug-free environment. This excludes the use of legally prescribed medications.

1. Tobacco

Napier Girls' High School is a 'Smokefree' environment and prohibits the use of tobacco products in any form by any person on school premises, and students on the way to or from school. This includes all school events. Smokefree signs will be displayed.

2. Alcohol

No students are permitted to possess or consume alcohol whilst on school premises, or on the way to or from school, at school functions or engaged in school-related activities such as camps and field trips. If alcohol is to be served to adults within the school buildings or at a school function, approval must be gained from the Principal.

3. Inhalants

No persons are permitted to inhale or otherwise ingest a solvent or other industrial product whilst on school premises, on the way to or from school, or at school functions.

4. Illicit Drugs

Napier Girls' High School prohibits the possession, consumption or supply of any illicit drugs by persons on the school premises, on the way to or from school, or at any school-related event.

In the event of any student appearing to be under the influence of an illicit drug, a school representative should investigate and where necessary seek medical advice. The parents/guardians should be informed and the police may be notified. Disciplinary action may result.

All staff, students and parents will be informed of the school's policy and rules relating to drug issues.