

Drug-Free Policy

Purpose

1. Create a drug-free school environment in the interests of student health, academic success and social cohesiveness.
2. Promote sound health practices, personal responsibility and well considered lifestyle choices.
3. Ensure that the school community is informed about WSC's Drug-Free policy.
4. Make explicit to students and parents the disciplinary consequences of any involvement with drugs at school.
5. Document and inform the school community concerning WSC's position with respect to search and seizure in relation to drug-related offences.
6. Document and inform students and parents concerning WSC's requirements for drug testing and counselling for students who breach this drug free policy.

Definition

For the purposes of this Drug-Free policy a drug is defined as alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs as listed in the Misuse of Drugs Act (such as marijuana, methamphetamine or "P", and psychoactive substances such as "party pills", "designer drugs", and synthetic cannabis), inhalants (such as petrol and solvents), prescription and pharmacy-only drugs and/or medicines used outside medical or pharmaceutical advice and any other substances used for psycho-active effects.

Guidelines

1. Staff, students and the community will be informed about the college's Drug-Free policy.
2. The school will educate students about drugs and related issues within the curriculum; the staff and the wider school community will receive educational material according to need.

3. Students will not have in their possession, use, supply, sell, buy, give or otherwise exchange drugs at school or on the way to and from school or arrange any drug-related transactions.
4. This policy is binding during normal school hours, and at times when staff have responsibility for students, such as field trips, sporting and cultural occasions, and social events, and at times when students might be reasonably identified as a member of the school community.
5. Students will not wear clothing or have possessions which advertise brands of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs, or which in any way carry inappropriate messages relating to drugs, alcohol or prohibited substances.
6. When reasonable grounds for suspicion are established, a search will be carried out according to Ministry of Education best practice guidelines.
7. When it is established on the basis of reasonable probability that students have breached this policy, disciplinary consequences will be determined according to the individual circumstances of each case. These disciplinary consequences may include a stand-down, suspension, exclusion / expulsion, counselling, treatment and / or random drug testing to be carried out by, and at times determined by, the school, as outlined in the terms of the allied WSC Drug Free Contract.
8. In the event of a policy breach which is considered by the school to be illegal, at the discretion of the principal, this breach may result in a police referral in order to verify the nature of the drugs and to uplift them; to conduct a search in order to locate and take possession of the drugs and to formally charge the student(s) if deemed necessary.
9. Staff will ensure that confiscated items are securely stored and disposed of as prescribed in the Search policy guidelines.
10. Information relating to drugs which is collected by the school will be
 - a. stored in the student disciplinary files
 - b. summarised in the school's student data base
 - c. sent to the Ministry of Education.

11. Programmes endorsed by the school, as a means of keeping a student drug free and thus in a fit state for learning, may include:
- a. Involvement in the Lifestyle Choices programme
 - b. Drug testing
 - c. Referral to an external agency such as the Community Alcohol and Drug Services (CADS) - Altered High.

Related Documents:

1. Western Springs College Drug Free Contract
2. Misuse of Drugs Act
3. NZ Bill of Rights Act 1990
4. Searching Students and Confiscation: *General Guidance on Good Practice*, Ministry of Education 2011

Ratified by the BOT: 15/09/2014

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