

Nelson College Policy

1.5 DRUGS



N E L S O N
C O L L E G E

Approved by:	Board of Trustees	Date effective:	25.10.2018
Contact:	Deputy Headmaster	Review date:	25.10.2021
Group:	Leadership Team	Reviewed by:	Leadership Team/BOT

Policy statement

Nelson College will not tolerate any drug or substance abuse.

Nelson College will ensure that all students are educated about drugs and related issues through appropriate health programmes.

Nelson College will comply with New Zealand law when dealing with illegal substances.

Policy rationale

The Nelson College community expects students to be educated and learn in a College environment that is safe in all respects.

Responsibility for implementation

Headmaster / Leadership Team

- The Headmaster will ensure that counselling and appropriate drug education is undertaken through the college or other appropriate agencies
- The Headmaster will ensure that appropriate drug education programmes are undertaken as part of the health programme
- The Headmaster will ensure that appropriate consequences are given. The consequences will follow the guidelines set by the Education Act 1989

Procedure

1. If the Leadership Team, ie Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster & Deputy Principals, has reasonable grounds to suspect:
 - (a) the unlawful possession or use of illegal drugs by a student; or
 - (b) the student is affected or influenced by illegal drugs (as outlined in Appendix A);
 - (c) each of the above:
 - (i) during the hours a student is expected to be at College (whether on school grounds or not); or
 - (ii) on a trip or function associated with the College; or
 - (iii) while under the control of the College; or
 - (iv) in College uniform;

The Leadership Team may undertake a process of investigation to determine the facts of the situation and if necessary the Headmaster will implement appropriate formal consequences as set out in the Education Act 1989

2. If the Senior Management (Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster & Deputy Principals) has reasonable grounds to believe that a student is supplying illegal drugs, the College may suspend the student prior to a Board of Trustees disciplinary hearing conducted under the provisions of the Education Act 1989.

3. Supply / Possession / use of drugs (as described in 1 and 2 above) may be referred to the Police.
4. Outside agencies, (eg Police, Alcohol & Drug Clinic, Drug Arm), may be invited into the school to educate the students through appropriate health programmes. Visits from outside agencies will complement ongoing education programmes delivered by Nelson College
5. Professional help, either school counsellors or outside agencies, will be available for any member of the school community with drug related problems. These problems may involve drug abuse by the individual or by people close to them. Information that such help is available shall be widely publicised throughout the school.
6. As a pre-requisite of return to the College, a student suspended in accordance with this policy, will be required by the College, to enrol in a drug rehabilitation programme.
7. The student's continued enrolment at the College is conditional upon the student:
 - (a) completing the rehabilitation programme to the satisfaction of the agency that runs the programme; and
 - (b) abiding by the conditions imposed by the College as a pre-requisite to re-admittance.

If the student fails to meet both of the above conditions the College may require the student to appear before the Board of Trustees Disciplinary Committee.

APPENDIX A

Where Senior Management (Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster, Deputy Principal) has **reasonable grounds to suspect that a student may be using an illegal substance**, the Leadership Team may undertake a process of investigation to determine the facts of the situation and if necessary the Headmaster will implement appropriate formal consequences as set out in the Education Act 1989

Reasonable grounds could include a combination of the following factors:

- Reports from other students or parents/caregivers which indicate the use or possession of illegal drugs.
- Reports from staff which indicate the use or possession of illegal drugs, including physical manifestations such as dilated pupils and incoherent behaviour.
- A lessening in his academic performance
- A lack of attendance at school
- A change in behaviour patterns