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# DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING POLICY

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The School takes a serious view of the use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs and wishes to adopt and project a policy which attempts to counter the possession and abuse of any illicit drug by staff. The following guidelines and procedures have been formulated.

## RATIONALE

The School's primary business is education and a part of this process is to help students to gain and clarify information about social issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, and to assist them to develop skills required for immediate and future decision making.

It is critical that at times when individuals are being required to make decisions about a whole range of behaviours which affect their personal health and well-being, that they learn how to make decisions on matters related to issues such as the use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. It is important too, that schools and teachers provide opportunities for people to discuss social (including controversial) topics, in an educational climate without feeling that they will be misunderstood or reprimanded for their honesty in discussing their values or behaviours, provided that such discussions do not condone, encourage or facilitate any illegal activities. It is also important that a school like ours takes a stand on values and makes this clear to the students.

In the process of learning how to make decisions, some individuals will make errors in judgement. This is a normal developmental process. A school, despite these errors, can accept the person without condoning the behaviour and still create an atmosphere of understanding which the school can use as an opportunity for learning.

Whatever individuals may think or feel, the law regarding drug abuse is clear and penalties are provided for conviction of offenders. Members of the school community are subject to these laws on School grounds, as well as off, and members of the school community have the same responsibility as every other citizen to uphold the law. The community at large expects that the School will convey by its actions and teachings that it does not in any way encourage or condone drug abuse.

## POSITION STATEMENT

Staff are not permitted to smoke, drink alcohol or take illegal drugs on School premises or at any School organised outings, events or camps where they have a supervisory responsibility and duty of care.