

**ST PATRICK’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
**NAG 5 – HEALTH & SAFETY**  
**DRUG USE, MISUSE AND EDUCATION**

***RATIONALE:***

St. Patrick’s School is committed to the well being of its students in providing them with knowledge and strategies to make healthy, safe and sensible choices in relation to drugs both now and in the future. It is also committed to providing a safe school environment in which drugs, other than those used as prescribed for a medical condition, or those used lawfully and with specific permission from the Board of Trustees, are not permitted.

In this policy –

“drugs” are defined as chemicals that alter mood and/or behaviour. They include nicotine, alcohol and cannabis, other volatile substances, prescription and pharmacy only drugs used outside medical advice. “school” is used for any occasion at school or in which students are representing the school.

***PURPOSE:***

The outcomes expected of this policy are:

1. Appropriate education for all students of the school;
2. Appropriate procedures will be developed for the storage and distribution of medications;
3. Intervention strategies will be in place for students should they be affected by their own or other’s drug use.
4. To promote and maintain a health-promoting school environment in which the well-being of all school community members is paramount.
5. To recognize and enhance the school’s Special Character.

***GUIDELINES:***

1. Through on-going health education classes in line with the *Health and Physical Education in the New Zealand Curriculum*, students will receive level-appropriate drug education programmes to encourage health-enhancing decision-making in relation to drugs, contributing to the well-being of themselves, others and society. (ref: Drug Education pp20-23)
2. Education programmes used to support this education will include: Life Education, DARE, Standing Strong and Keeping ourselves Safe. The school will make use of community agencies to identify use of at risk students.
3. Should there be concerns regarding drug use by any student of the school
  - Discuss with Principal.
  - Principal deals with situation.
  - Principal consults with parents/caregivers
  - Discipline in line with behaviour management plan may follow.
4. Should there be concerns regarding staff use/abuse of drugs
  - Discuss with Principal.
  - Principal deals with situation depending on severity.
  - Principal consults with NZEI field officer to discuss procedure.
  - Disciplinary action may follow.

5. All members of the school community will be expected to follow the Board of Trustees' guidelines in relation to drug use.
  - St. Patrick's School is Smoke Free.
  - Those accompanying students on any school outing, need to be aware of their role and will be informed of the school's model status policy regarding drug use.
  - Medications will be secured in a locked cupboard/drawer and will be administered by designated personnel on receipt of a letter with full instructions from the parent/caregiver.
6. Adults at staff and school functions should be aware of the role models they present. On such occasions, non-alcoholic drinks and food should be available.
7. The Board and staff will review this policy every 2 years.

Prepared: March 2001

Reviewed: October 2004 / June 2007

Board of Trustee Approved:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### References:

Health and Physical Education in the New Zealand Curriculum  
Drug Education - A Guide for Principals and Board of Trustees

#### Related documents:

St Patrick's School Behaviour Management Plan  
Administration of Prescribed Medicines Policy  
Short-term Intervention: Incident Check List

#### Community Links

RTLB service  
Police Education Officer  
Youth Aid Officer  
Public Health Nurse