

## 5.14. TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

Parnell District School has an interest in promoting good health practices, based on educational and social policy, both within the school and in the wider community.

The school recognises that the consumption of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can impair individual well-being and endanger personal safety as well as endanger the well-being and personal safety of others. Such consumption can also interfere with the teaching and learning process.

The aim of this policy is to increase personal well being of students and staff /parents and to promote a safe and healthy school environment.

Smoking. The school's Policy on Smoking pursuant to the Smoke-free Environment Act 1990 is annexed and is incorporated into and forms part of the Guidelines. Notices are affixed to buildings

### **Purposes**

- Educational / Curriculum. To implement and evaluate a preventative health education programme which promotes positive lifestyle choices with the aim of reducing the incidence of smoking, alcohol and drug related problems.
- Guidance and Support. To intervene in the harmful or inappropriate use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs in a positive and supportive manner considering the best interests of the students, staff members and other parties concerned.
- School environment. To promote the health and well being of the school community, Parnell District School has adopted a policy on smoking.
- Disciplinary Action. To protect the health and safety of students and staff, the Board and management will uphold this policy through appropriate disciplinary action as outlined in the Discipline policy.

### **Guidelines**

1. Within the school context, including field trips, sporting and cultural occasions, students, parents and staff will not
  - use prohibited drugs
  - use alcohol
  - inappropriately use prescription or over the counter medicines
  - inappropriately use solvents or inhalants
  - possess drug-related objects

In addition students may not

- smoke tobacco
- possess any items relating to tobacco, cigarettes or alcohol.

The prohibition on the use of alcohol by staff is subject to paragraphs 2 and 5 below.

2. The school prohibits the possession, sale or supply/exchange or negotiation in relation to any of the above when on school premises or on any occasion when staff have responsibility for an individual or group of students.  
No alcohol is to be consumed at school camps
3. For the purposes of matters referred to in guideline 1 above, students remain responsible to the school both on the way to and from their homes and to and from any destination where the student is involved in a school related activity.
4. Staff consumption of alcohol in the school grounds will be limited to events scheduled for outside school hours.
5. All staff, students and parents will be apprised of this policy through appropriate means.
6. The health education programme provided by the school will include factual information regarding the risks of tobacco, alcohol and drug use personal and social attitude clarification and skill development appropriate to the needs of the learner.
7. Immediate Response
  - (a) If a teacher comes across an incident in which a student is in possession of or under the influence of any tobacco, prohibited or inappropriate drug, or alcohol, or any item related to such possession, they are to follow these procedures -
    - The teacher must ask the student to accompany him/her to the Principal.
    - If there is a substance the teacher should confiscate it.
  - (b) If the student will not accompany the teacher or will not hand over the substance, object or item, the teacher should -
    - send another student to fetch the Principal, Deputy Principal, Assistant Principal or other teacher.
    - If there is no other student available, go immediately to the Principal, Deputy Principal or Assistant Principal.
    - The teacher should not attempt to interrogate or search the student on their own.

- (c) In the case of information received from staff, students or any other person on the basis of a rumour or suspicion or from a parental concern in relation to the matters referred to in guideline 1 above, then the matter must be referred to the Principal.
  - (d) The Principal and the Board are responsible for the decision on appropriate action and any necessary discipline.
8. Information and Support In any case arising under this Policy -  
The school's health educators are to provide relevant information and education.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed and evaluated every three years.

Revised August 2007/ June 09  
Next review June 2012