

Drug and Substance Use Guidelines



Drug usage is a very important issue in any school community and the following policy seeks to clarify the school's position. It is a policy that has been developed in association with the staff, students, parents and expert community bodies. All members of the Embassy English community are expected to support this policy.

Rationale

Central to the development of this policy is a concern for the well-being of our students. The policy is based on the principle of harm minimisation and has both a preventative and an interventionist aim. Fundamentally Embassy English is committed to providing students with information and advice which enables students to make informed decisions regarding drug and substance use. Embassy English recognises the possibility that some students will use drugs at some stage of their lives and, therefore, it is important for students to be able to make informed decisions and to minimise any harmful effects which drug use might have.

Definition

A drug is defined as “any substance, with the exception of food and water, which, when taken into the body, alters its function physically or psychologically”. This definition includes all drugs – analgesics, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, amphetamines etc.

Prevention

The major objective of this policy is education. The Embassy English Welfare Department will provide information to all students in their individual interaction with students and through the provision of materials supplied by government and other agencies. Such material is made available from the student welfare area and the student common room. The school library also has many drug prevention resources.

Intervention

In addition to the provision of education and preventative measures it is important for all students to be aware of the school's attitude to drug taking or distribution, and the sanctions which apply. Such sanctions take account of legal requirements.

Where a student approaches staff for help with a drug problem, assistance will be provided through our Welfare Services. During the initial stages of discussion any information provided will be treated confidentially. However for health or safety reasons it may be deemed necessary to share such information.

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Embassy English does not permit students to smoke tobacco products, while on the campus.

Embassy English does not permit students while in the school environment, to: consume and/or possess alcohol, deliberately inhale solvents, possess drug related equipment such as syringes, (unless for medical reasons and with the knowledge of staff), bongos and pipes, possess, use or be under the influence of any illegal drug. This includes any excursions and organised functions.

Response to Drug Use Incidents

Illegal Drugs

Possession and/or supply of illegal drugs is an offence and is against the law. Embassy English will view either offence as a very serious matter.

Students involved in incidents relating to the use/or supply of illegal drugs will be liable to a range of sanctions.

The range of sanctions includes:

- Suspension from school
- Parents being notified by telephone and/or letter (where applicable)
- Expulsion
- Notification to Police

Smoking Cigarettes

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on campus. Students found smoking may be liable to a range of sanctions dependent on the circumstances and whether or not other offences have been recorded. The law in New Zealand does not permit people under 18 to purchase cigarettes.

Use of Alcohol

In New Zealand the legal age for drinking alcohol in public premises is 18 years. It is also illegal to purchase tobacco or alcohol if you are under the age of 18.

Possession and/or consumption of alcohol in the school environment is forbidden. Students found drinking or in possession of alcohol will be liable to a range of sanctions dependent on the circumstances and whether or not other offences have been recorded.

All students will be referred to the Principal.