

**DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

**POLICY OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the prevention, intervention and elimination of the use of illegal drugs and abuse of legal drugs in schools.

The Ministry of Education [MoE] does not permit the possession, consumption, promotion, distribution, or sale of all harmful drugs and the abuse of legal drugs such as kava. The following will not be tolerated in any official function held in or out of the school environment. These drugs include :

- Marijuana and other illicit drugs such as:
- Cocaine
- Heroine & other hard drugs
- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Inhalants

The MoE has declared all schools as smoke free and drug free. The MoE however, makes allowance for kava only to be used by relevant school authorities at ceremonial purposes in moderate amount.

Government employees are strictly prohibited from drinking kava on school/ government premises during office hours.

This policy sets out requirements for Khalsa College to plan and implement appropriate responses to drug related incidents, with an emphasis on prevention through drug education and safe and supportive school environment, and intervention and support for students who may be involved.

**Illegal drugs**

Schools must be places which are free of illegal drugs.

The school principal must manage disciplinary matters involving suspected illegal substances or supply of restricted substances consistent with the MoE's drug policies.

Principals must report incidents involving illegal drugs to authorities like parents, police, MOE and social welfare.

**Alcohol**

Alcohol must not be consumed or brought to school premises during school hours. This includes teachers, employees, students and visitors and other people who use school premises

The consumption of alcohol is not permitted at any school function (including those conducted outside school premises) at any time when school students, from any school, are present. A school function is any function organised by the school and/or in the name of the school and applies to all types of functions including farewells, sports and any form of parties.

Principals must manage incidents involving alcohol consistent with the school's student welfare and discipline policies

### **Tobacco**

Smoking on school premises, including school buildings, gardens, sports fields and car parks, is prohibited. This includes teachers, students, employees, visitors and other people who use school premises, including community groups

Principals must manage incidents involving tobacco consistent with the school's student welfare and discipline policies

## **INTRODUCTION**

Drug and substance abuse is of national concern due to its detrimental effects on the user's health and socio-economic costs to the people, the government and the security of the nation.

This policy was formulated because of the increasing problem of drugs and substance abuse in schools which is of a national concern due to the health, social and economic costs to the people.

The number of young people sent out from schools with drugs and alcohol related cases as well as those caught by police and those treated at St Giles Hospital are increasing every year and early intervention is needed.

Drugs and alcohol abuse is directly connected to the incidence of many sexually transmitted infections and HIV and AIDS of which young people are the most vulnerable.

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The effects of drugs and substance abuse is evident in the increase in social problems such as crime, high school drop out rate, family break ups, accidents, high incidences of sexually transmitted infections, long term detrimental health effects and death.

## **DRUG RELATED PHRASES**

### **Drug Free environment**

Refers to the school/government premises being free of drug trafficking and or consumption. The teachers, students and other members of the school community also take an active role in combating drug trafficking and or consumption so that drug use and abuse is eradicated in the premises.

### **Drug Free Premises**

Refers to mark up areas within the school/government environment that are designated as smoke and drug free.

## **Drug related incident**

Occasion involving alcohol, tobacco and or other drug use and or the possession of a drug or drug – related equipment, including bongs, pipes, and syringes (except for legal medical use).

## **Drug related problems**

Comprehensive term that describes all problems associated with drugs, including those that arise from personal use and use by another person or persons.

## **Government premises**

A setting and or building under the jurisdiction of the government of Fiji.

## **Illegal drugs**

Illicit or unlawful drugs listed

## **Moderate amount**

The amount appropriate for the purpose of the ceremony

## **Psychoactive drug**

A substance that affects the central nervous system of the user and alters the mood, perception and consciousness. Psychoactive drugs can be categorized as depressants, stimulants and hallucinogens. Some drugs do not fit neatly into any one of these categories and are grouped as „others“.

## **School community**

It includes the parents, teachers, students, old scholars and all the active participants in the school's affairs.

## **School drug policy-Internal**

Set of brief statements outlining the school community's agreed position on, and accepted procedures for dealing with drug related issues in harmony with the MOE Policy in Drugs and Substance Abuse.

## **Guidelines For Questioning And Searching Students Suspected Of Illegal Use Of Drugs Or Alcohol**

**A.** the school counsellors are authorized to question and search students regarding illicit drug or alcohol activity on school property.

**B.** The designated staff member is entitled to conduct a search of a student's person and immediate possessions whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe the student has violated or is violating the law or the rules of the school relating to drugs or alcohol. A mere hunch or suspicion about a student does not constitute reasonable grounds for a search. There

must be specific, articulable and objective reasons for believing that a particular student is engaged in prohibited drug or alcohol activity.

**C.** Before initiating a search of a student reasonably suspected of prohibited drug or alcohol behavior, the designated staff member should question the student, whenever possible, for the purpose of ascertaining:

1. the kind and amount of drug or beverage consumed, possessed, distributed or sold on school property;
2. in cases where the student is reasonably suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, when and where such drug or beverage was last consumed and the quantity consumed;
3. whether the student still has in his or her possession or subject to his or her immediate control more of such drug or beverage;
4. when, where, from whom and under what circumstances the student obtained such drug or beverage;
5. in the case of sale or distribution, when, where, to whom and under what circumstances the student sold or distributed such drug or beverage.

**D.** If, after questioning the student and reviewing the information previously obtained, the designated staff member continues to find there are reasonable grounds for believing the student has violated or is violating the law or school rules regarding drug and alcohol use then the staff member should search the student's person and/or property under the student's immediate control. The scope of such search should be limited to what is reasonably related to the objectives of the search and should not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the offense. Any search of the student's person should be conducted by a staff member of the same sex.

**E.** The above guidelines apply only when school authorities act independently of the police in questioning or searching a student. If the police are involved in interrogation of a student, it may be first necessary for the police to advise that student of his or her rights. If the police are involved in searching a student, there must exist probable cause for the search and, in most instances, a search warrant.