

NILE Policy on student use of illegal substances

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Introduction

NILE has a legal responsibility to ensure that it does not allow its premises to be used for illegal drug activities. The possession of illegal drugs is a criminal offence and possession with intent to supply is a more serious offence. NILE operates a zero-tolerance policy with regard to the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs. Any student found to be involved in illegal drug activities will face disciplinary action and may face criminal charges.

The Law

The Misuse of Drugs Act states that it is an offence to:

- Possess a controlled substance unlawfully
- Possess a controlled substance with the intention of supplying it to another person
- Supply or offer to supply a controlled drug (even if it is given away for free)
- Allow any premises to be used by people taking drug

Types of illegal drug include: Ecstasy, LSD, heroin, cocaine, crack, magic mushrooms, amphetamines, cannabis, tranquilizers, some painkillers, GHB, Ketamine.

Procedures

Each incident is considered individually and there is always careful consideration before the response is determined.

The Director will open and direct an investigation into the incident. Students will be interviewed as part of the investigation and will be made aware of their right to have a friend/representative present and an interpreter if required.

Parents are normally informed of any incidents involving illegal drug use as soon as possible and informed of developments throughout the investigation.

If any student is found or believed to be in possession of an illegal drug, the student will be asked hand over the drug. No force or threat to the student will be used when confiscating the drug.

On confiscating the illegal drug, it will be stored in a safe place and will be passed to the police as soon as possible for disposal.



Students found involved in illegal drug activities are normally sent home, irrespective of any other action being taken.

In all cases where a student is found to be using illegal drugs, consideration is given as to whether the student requires support or counselling.

A written report of all incidents is made and stored securely as confidential items.

Confidentiality

The welfare of students is central to NILE's policy and practice. Information about a student in relation to drugs is treated in the same way as other sensitive information. The Director is informed and help is sought, if appropriate and, where possible, in discussion with the student involved and the Group Leader. Confidentiality is maintained beyond key people whom it is necessary to involve.

Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the DSP.