

# NIPISSING-PARRY SOUND CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## STUDENT USE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS

AS 29.0  
Section T  
June 2014

### **PREAMBLE**

Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God (The Catechism of the Catholic Church #2288). The Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board to promote the health, social, personal and spiritual well-being of all students. Recognizing that the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs can be detrimental to the well-being of the individual and may interfere with the student's ability to learn, the Board supports a comprehensive approach regarding student use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs. This approach includes:

- a) prevention of drug use through education
- b) intervention and counselling, and
- c) disciplinary procedures.

In this policy the reference to drugs encompasses the use and abuse of the illicit drugs, performance enhancing drugs, tobacco, alcohol, inhalants as well as the non-medical use of prescription drugs.

### **GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES**

#### **A) Prevention of Drug Use through Education**

Education is critical to the prevention of drug abuse. By using problem-solving, decision-making, refusal and assertiveness skills effectively, students can select healthy, drug-free behaviours based on accurate information (Ontario Curriculum 1-8 - Physical and Health Education, 1998, p. 11).

The education program will assist the student to:

- distinguish between healthy and unhealthy lifestyles and make choices that contribute to personal well-being;
- distinguish between the proper and improper use of prescription and non-prescription drugs;
- explain different consequences of taking harmful and beneficial drugs and other substances;
- analyze issues concerning the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, and other substances;
- use advocacy skills to promote responsible behaviour in the school and community.

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### **B) Intervention and Counselling**

Working with parents/guardians and community agencies, school staffs will assist students identified with alcohol, tobacco and other drug-related problems by implementing assessment, counselling and referral services.

### **C) Disciplinary Procedures**

The Board deems that the possession or consumption of drugs or alcohol by a student on Board property, or school buses, or at school-sponsored events on non-school property is conduct injurious to the moral tone of the school, or the physical or mental well-being of the others in the school. This information shall be communicated to parents/guardians and students through every school's Code of Behaviour.

#### **1. The Use of Tobacco**

Smoking is prohibited on all Board property.

##### *First Infraction:*

The student is informed that his/her behaviour is an infraction and parents/guardians are also informed. Should the student be under the age of 19 years, the tobacco will be confiscated and returned to the parents/guardians. If the student is over the age of 19 years, the tobacco will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school year. The student will be subject to the disciplinary action specified in the school's Code of Behaviour. This disciplinary action may include suspension.

##### *Subsequent Infractions:*

In addition to the consequences as outlined for the first infraction, the student will be encouraged to enter a smoking cessation program and the student shall be subject to the disciplinary action specified in the school's Code of Behaviour. This will include suspension.

#### **2. Use or Possession of Alcohol**

Alcohol is prohibited on all Board property.

##### *First Infraction:*

The student is informed that his/her behaviour is an infraction of Board policy.

Parents/guardians will also be informed of the infraction. The alcohol is confiscated. If the student is under 19 years of age, the alcohol will be returned to the parents/guardians. If the student is 19 years of age or older, the alcohol will be returned at the end of the school year.

There will be a student/parent/school conference and the student will be suspended for a fixed period as set out in the school's Code of Behaviour.

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*Subsequent Infractions:*

All of the consequences outlined for the first infraction shall be enforced. In addition, the student will be strongly advised to seek assessment and counselling for alcohol and/or drug abuse. Persistent violation of the policy may lead to expulsion.

The disciplinary procedures for students found using inhalants for the purpose of intoxication or for those using, or in possession of, illicit drugs will be as outlined above. However, the confiscation of illicit drugs will be done as prescribed by Board authorities. The Police may be involved.

**3. Being Intoxicated by Alcohol or Drugs**

*First Infraction:*

The student is detained at the school, or event, under the supervision of a Board employee, in order to ensure his/her safety. If the student refuses to stay under supervision, the Police are called to retrieve and return the student home. Otherwise, the student's parents/guardians are called to retrieve their child. Should parents/guardians not be available, attempts are made to find other responsible adults who can take the student home or provide care.

If no other option is available, the student is taken to a detoxification centre, or hospital, or if necessary, to a Police Station in order to ensure his/her safety. Parents/guardians are advised of the infraction as soon as possible.

Any alcohol or drugs present will be confiscated as prescribed by Board authorities.

When the student is no longer intoxicated, he/she will be advised that his/her behaviour was an infraction of Board policy. A parent/student/school conference shall be held and the student will be suspended for at least five days.

*Subsequent Infractions:*

All of the consequences as outlined for the first infraction shall be enforced. As well there will be a strong recommendation that the student receive counselling for alcohol or drug abuse. Persistent violation of the policy may lead to expulsion.