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# Macleans College - POLICIES & DIRECTIVES

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SECTION NO: <b>1100</b>	POLICY NO: <b>1104</b>	ISSUE DATE: 15/03/07
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## Drug Counselling

### PROCEDURES:

- 1 To work with the student in a non-judgmental, non-threatening, non-blaming manner.
- 2 Communication between counsellor and students shall be confidential and treated as privileged information unless the student gives consent to any particular information being disclosed. Exceptions to this principle occur when, in the professional judgment of the counsellor, there is clear and imminent danger to the student or others. This includes circumstances where
  - a) The student's competence to make a decision is obviously limited, eg under the influence of a mind-changing chemical, or heavily using and unable to make responsible decisions about their life. In these circumstances the counsellor shall take reasonable personal action to inform the school nurse, or senior management team or other responsible authorities.

*(Source: NZ Association of Counsellors' Code of Ethics)*

- b) The disclosure of the information is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to:
  - i) public health or public safety; or
  - ii) the life or health of the individual concerned or another individual.

*(Source: Privacy Act 1993)*

- c) To notify the parents of the student if this would benefit the wellbeing and recovery of the student.
- d) That if a student has been receiving counselling and becomes a school discipline problem, the student's drug taking will have to be disclosed to the disciplinary meeting, and/or the parents, if the information will assist and support the student to a positive outcome and change in behaviour.
- e) When information gained from a counselling relationship is used for purposes such as counsellor training, supervision or research, the counsellor shall protect the student's identity.

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- 3 That the student's records will be kept in a confidential file.
- 4 That the student will be aware of this policy.
- 5 That the student can see any assessments or notes regarding their drug taking.
- 6 The school nurse will be aware of students being worked with.