# Operational Policy: Drug Free (NAG 5)

## Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ

## Statement of Intent:

The Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ) promotes the safety and well-being of ākonga through the provision of a drug free environment at its Homai Campus and other buildings used by ākonga and staff. This includes all Visual Resource Centres, BLENNZ school buildings and grounds including Café BLENNZ, Nikau Hostel, The Bach and all vehicles used by BLENNZ in the course of its business.

This policy is binding whilst BLENNZ accepts responsibility for ākonga:

a. on normal school days from the time ākonga leave home to attend the Homai Campus School to when they arrive home or to some other dwelling or place of work as their parents and/or guardians have arranged or acknowledge;

b. during out of school hours for those ākonga enrolled in residential programmes at the Homai Campus;

c. during hours ākonga are attending day or residential immersion courses;

d. on any trip, excursion or sporting outing where the travel arrangements and/or accommodation have been organised in the name of BLENNZ by BLENNZ, a sports coach or some other agent acting for BLENNZ from the time the group leave BLENNZ to the time they return, and until they are delivered into the care of their parents/caregivers.

## Definition:

For the purposes of this policy, a drug is defined as illegal drugs as listed in the Misuse of Drugs Act (e.g. marijuana, methamphetamine or “P”, and psychoactive substances such as “party pills”, “designer drugs” and synthetic canabis), inhalents (such as petrol and solvents), prescription and pharmacy-only drugs and/or medicines used outside medical or pharmaceutical advice and any other substances used for psycho-active effects. Alcohol is excluded from this list as it is covered separately under the respective BLENNZ staff and ākonga alcohol policies. Tobacco and vaping are excluded from this list as they are covered by the BLENNZ Smoke Free Policy.

## Policy Requirements:

1. Staff, ākonga and the BLENNZ community will be informed of this policy and the disciplinary consequences of any involvement with drugs at BLENNZ. This can be through face to face discussion, information provided at enrolment, the BLENNZ website, staff meetings, parent newsletters etc.

2. BLENNZ will educate ākonga about drugs and related issues through the appropriate curricula; staff and the wider community will receive educational material according to need.

3. Neither staff nor ākonga will wear clothing or have possessions which advertise brands of tobacco, vaping, alcohol or other drugs, or which in any way carry inappropriate messages relating to drugs or prohibited substances.

4. Staff and ākonga will not have in their possession, use, supply, sell, buy, give or otherwise exchange drugs at BLENNZ or on the way to or from BLENNZ, or arrange any drug related transactions.

5. In the event of ākonga or staff behaving in a manner which causes concern regarding the suspected use/abuse of substances, staff should inform their respective Senior Manager.

6. The appropriate member of the Senior Management Team will investigate and interview ākonga and staff as required.

7. Where any involvement with drugs can be considered more than a suspicion, the Principal will be informed. The Principal will convene a meeting with appropriate parties (including representatives of the Board of Trustees if appropriate) to review the incident and make decisions as to further action. This may include stand down, suspension or expulsion for ākonga in line with Ministry of Education guidelines, and disciplinary action for staff in terms of BLENNZ policy and collective employment agreements, or the involvement of police.

8. When reasonable grounds for suspicion are established, a search will be carried out according to Ministry of Education best practice guidelines. Staff will ensure that confiscated items are securely stored and disposed of as prescribed in policy.

9. Parents/guardians will be informed in all cases where it is established that ākonga are involved with drugs at school.

10. The Ministry of Education will be notified of any drug related issues as required.

## Supporting Documents:

[Ministry of Education: Property and Search Guidelines](http://www.education.govt.nz/school/managing-and-supporting-students/student-behaviour-help-and-guidance/searching-and-removing-student-property/)

[MOE website - Stand down guidelines Part One](http://www.education.govt.nz/school/managing-and-supporting-students/student-behaviour-help-and-guidance/stand-downs-suspensions-exclusions-and-expulsions-guidelines/)

[MOE website - Stand down guidelines Part Two](http://www.education.govt.nz/school/managing-and-supporting-students/student-behaviour-help-and-guidance/stand-downs-suspensions-exclusions-and-expulsions-guidelines-part-2/)

BLENNZ Concerns and Complaints Policy

[NZ Police: Drug and Alcohol Guidelines](http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-and-community-advice/school-portal/information-and-guidelines/alcohol-and-other-drug)

[NZ Police: Lifestyle Choices Programmes for Years 7-8](http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-and-community-advice/school-portal/resources/healthy-body-healthy-mind/choice-year-0)

[Government Legislation: Misuse of Drugs Act](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1975/0116/latest/whole.html)

Approved: 

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Next Review: 2026