
SECONDARY SCHOOL BLOOD DRIVES – INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS AND STAFF

New Zealand Blood Service (NZBS) will be holding a mobile blood drive at:

- Mt Albert Grammar
- School Hall
- Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th of June 2026

It is important that we encourage students into a lifetime habit of donating blood and making a worthwhile contribution to their community.

Sensitivities around donating blood

To donate blood, each student must answer a health questionnaire and have a private confidential interview with a nurse to determine if they are eligible to give blood.

This may include some topics/circumstances that are sensitive to an individual and may include:

- Medications – e.g. acne, birth control, other conditions
- Drug use – e.g. marijuana, smoking, drinking or use of other substances
- Peer pressure, anxiety and fear of needles – unable to let peers know they are not comfortable donating.
- Behavioural criteria exclusions – including high risk behaviours e.g. anal sex - unable to discuss with peers why they are deferred from donating

The interviews are confidential, and if a student is deferred for any reason which may be difficult for the student to explain to their peers – our team will provide them with scenarios to help manage this, to ensure they do not feel excluded or embarrassed for not being able to donate. We respect everyone's right to privacy.

It is important that students are not singled out or reprimanded for not being able to donate. Our criteria exist to protect the safety of the blood supply and also the health and well-being of our donors.

Please treat any discussions around blood donor criteria sensitively as there are many reasons why someone may be deferred from donating, including information they do not wish to disclose to their teachers and peers.

The right to donate

The Care of Children Act 2004 allows people 16 years and over to make their own decisions about whether or not they wish to give blood. Students may choose to donate blood at this session.

NZBS recommends that students discuss becoming a blood donor with their family. If families have a particular objection to the student choosing to donate blood, please make this known to the student and to the school before the blood drive date stated above.

Parents are also welcome to come and donate blood at the blood drive only with the permission of school management. Our teams can provide information to include in your school newsletters to help inform parents.

***If you require any further information please call 0800 GIVE BLOOD (0800 448 325)
or visit www.nzblood.co.nz***