



Misuse of Drugs Policy

Rationale

Students cannot maximise their learning or reach their potential whilst they misuse drugs. Drug abuse can have serious effects on the mental health of our young people. The Board regards drug abuse by school students as a serious health, safety and disciplinary issue which is inconsistent with our school values of Respect, Endeavour, Aroha and Perseverance.

Definition

A drug is defined as being tobacco, vaping substances, alcohol, illegal drugs, volatile substances (such as petrol, solvents and inhalants) and other substances used for psycho-active effects, recreation, or enhancement, as well as prescription and pharmacy-only drugs used outside medical or pharmaceutical advice.

Aims:

- To discourage all unnecessary drug use that may be detrimental to the health and well-being of students.
- To create an environment where students are educated about drugs and drug issues by developing and maintaining a programme of drug education for Years 9 – 13.
- To ensure that students clearly understand the consequences of drug abuse.
- To further develop strong disciplinary procedures for dealing with drug abuse issues at school.

Guidelines:

1. Drug education, including alcohol, vaping and tobacco, will form part of the school's health curriculum. The focus of this is to ensure that students are informed about drugs and related issues, implications of drug use, and the possible harm to themselves and the community of misuse.
2. Rangitikei College is a smoke-free and vape-free environment in accordance with legislation, and prohibits the use of tobacco and vaping products in any form, by any person on school premises, or on the way to or from the school. This includes all school events.
3. The Principal is authorised to deploy drug detection dogs according to her/his discretion.
4. Misuse of drugs is seen as a health issue and this will inform responses to it. Selling, or 'pushing' illegal drugs is a potential criminal issue.

5. Any possession, supply or use of illegal drugs (including drug paraphernalia), tobacco, vaping or alcohol, during the school day, or whilst on school activities, is absolutely prohibited, and could potentially be considered a harmful or dangerous example to other students. All incidents involving this are to be referred to the Principal for a response.
6. Possession of illegal drugs (including drug paraphernalia), tobacco, vaping items or alcohol will result in the items being seized and not returned.
7. Promotion of the abuse of drugs or alcohol (eg. on t-shirts) whilst on school activities is prohibited, including advertising alcohol.

Chairperson:



Date:

29.11.21

Next review date: September 2024

ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS:

1. Alcohol Consumption and Supply Policy
2. Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990

(NB: Procedures are developed as part of school management. The Board of Trustees will be informed of the development or revision of procedures derived from Board policies by the Principal. For some especially significant procedures, these will be presented to the Board in full)