

# Smokefree and Vapefree School Policy



Our school/kura promotes a smokefree and vapefree lifestyle to all members of the school/kura community.

Our smokefree and vapefree policy allows us to comply with the **Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990**.

## ***The legislation***

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The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 directs that all school buildings and grounds are smokefree and vapefree 24 hours a day, seven days a week (with no exemptions). The education provisions in the Act aim to:

- prevent the exposure of children and young people to second-hand smoke
- prevent children and young people being influenced by seeing others smoke or vape
- prevent students from taking up smoking and vaping; and
- send a positive message about a smokefree and vapefree lifestyle as the norm and as the right of all young people.

The law applies to anyone on the school grounds, including students, staff, visiting parents, caregivers and whānau, contractors, and people hiring or using the school facilities outside school hours.

To comply with the legislation, our school will ensure that everyone coming on to the school site is aware that the entire grounds are smokefree and vapefree at all times.

This means we will:

- display smokefree and 'No Vaping' signs at every entrance to the school grounds and the outer entrance of every building
- advise contractors and other people working at school of our smokefree and vapefree policy
- communicate this policy to our school community through our newsletter and other means
- ensure that people hiring or using the school/kura facilities are aware of the policy and that there are no exemptions and that it applies 24 hours a day, seven days a week

- having a procedure for breaches of the policy.

**Failure to take these steps may result in the management of the school/kura being fined up to \$4,000 for non-compliance. It isn't smoking or vaping that is the breach – its failure to take the steps above.**

## **Promoting a smokefree and vapefree lifestyle**

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Our school/kura aims to reduce smoking and vaping uptake among students, and work towards a smokefree and vapefree society through:

### **Consistent messages**

- we prominently display our smokefree and vapefree policy in the staffroom and the public area of the office
- we display smokefree and 'No vaping' signs
- we politely ask anyone smoking or vaping on school property to stop immediately
- we educate students through the curriculum about the harmful effects of smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke, and vaping is not for non-smokers or young people and why it is illegal to sell or supply provide these products to under 18 year olds in a public space
- where possible, we provide staff with smokefree/vapefree-related professional development
- we communicate our smokefree and vapefree policy to the school community via the school/kura newsletter and other means, at least once a year
- we inform parents of new entrants, and prospective employees, of our school's/kuras smokefree and vapefree policy.

### **Role models**

- young people are more likely to start smoking or vaping if they see adults smoking or vaping
- for those staff and employees who smoke or vape we will ask them to ensure they cannot be seen smoking or vaping by students even when they are off the school/kura grounds
- we support staff and employees who are quitting smoking by promoting stop smoking programmes, allowing them to access their quit coaches as appropriate and providing ongoing support and encouragement
- we will remind parents and caregivers who are on the school grounds, or attending school/kura events (including helping at these events) that they

must not smoke or vape. This includes while transporting or looking after students at events off school premises.

### **Smokefree and vapefree environments**

- there is no smoking or vaping anywhere at our school/kura at any time, including any school road crossing areas
- we do not provide ashtrays or smoking/vaping areas
- all school activities outside of our school's premises are smokefree and vapefree, e.g. Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) activities and sporting and cultural events. We will remind parents and caregivers who are helping at these events that they must not smoke or vape while transporting or looking after students
- parents/caregivers are encouraged to embrace a smokefree and vapefree lifestyle and to know that vaping is only for people wanting to stop smoking and is not for young people.

### **Breaches of the smokefree and vapefree policy**

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Students found smoking or vaping in or around our school/kura are offered appropriate counselling and education. Parents/caregivers will be contacted, and we will encourage them to deal with the smoking or vaping as a health issue rather than a discipline issue.

If a student (including those 18 years and older) are found to be providing tobacco or vapes to other students their parents/caregivers will be contacted. They will be given education around the harms of smoking and vaping and the laws around supplying to young people under 18.

Adults smoking or vaping in or around our school/kura environment will be reminded that the school/kura is smokefree and vapefree by law and asked to stop smoking/vaping immediately or leave the premises and move to a place where students cannot see them.

### **Complaints**

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All complaints involving smoking and vaping are referred to the Principal, who may pass these to the Board of Trustees for investigation. Investigations take place within 20 working days of the complaint or incident and follow the procedures laid down in the legislation.



**Te Whatu Ora**  
Health New Zealand