



SMOKEFREE SCHOOLS PROCEDURE

Our smokefree policy allows us to comply with smokefree legislation, and promote a smokefree lifestyle to all members of the school community. This policy applies to all smoking and vaping products, including e-cigarettes. For the purpose of this policy, "smokefree" also means "vapefree".

The legislation

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
- send a positive message about a smokefree lifestyle as the norm.

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

To comply with the legislation, schools must ensure that everyone coming on to the school site is aware that the entire grounds are smokefree at all times. This means:

- displaying no smoking and no vaping signs at every entrance to the school grounds and the outer entrance of every building
- advising contractors and other people working at school of our smokefree policy
- communicating the policy to parents through the newsletter and other means
- ensuring that people hiring or using the school facilities are aware of the policy and accept 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 being fined up to \$4,000 for non-compliance. It isn't smoking that is the breach – it's failure to take the steps above.

Promoting a smokefree lifestyle

In line with the Seventh-day Adventist Church health message, we aim to promote a smokefree lifestyle. Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill-health in New Zealand, and most people who take up smoking do so by the age of 18.

Exposure to second-hand smoke (passive smoking) affects the health of non-smokers, especially babies and children. Recent studies have shown that, in addition to causing health problems for children, exposure to second-hand smoking affects a child's behaviour and ability to learn.

Children who receive consistent messages (see role models below) and grow up in a smokefree environment are less likely to smoke. Our school aims to reduce smoking uptake among students and work towards a smokefree society through:

Consistent messages

- We prominently display our smokefree policy in the staffroom and the public area of the office.
- We display the required signage and ask anyone smoking or vaping to stop.
- We do not provide ashtrays or smoking areas.
- We educate students through the curriculum about harmful effects of smoking and vaping products and exposure to second-hand smoke.
- Where possible, we provide staff with smokefree-related professional development.
- We communicate our smokefree policy to the school community via the newsletter and other means, and promote Quit Smoking programmes as appropriate.
- We inform parents of new entrants, and prospective employees, of our school's smokefree policy.

Role models

- Young people are more likely to start if they see adults smoking or vaping.
- We promote all school activities outside of our school's premises as smokefree, e.g. EOTC activities and sporting events, and remind parent helpers that they must not smoke or vape while transporting or looking after students.
- We regularly remind current employees of the policy and ask them to ensure that students don't see them smoking or vaping even when they are off the school grounds.

Smokefree environment

- There is no smoking or vaping anywhere at school at any time.
- Parents are encouraged to embrace a smokefree lifestyle.

Breaches of the smokefree policy

Students found smoking or vaping in or around school are offered appropriate counselling and education. Parents are contacted and encouraged to deal with it as a health issue rather than a discipline issue.

Adults smoking or vaping in or around the school environment will be reminded that the school is smokefree by law and asked to stop or leave the premises.

Complaints

All complaints involving smoking or vaping are referred to the principal, who may pass these to the board for investigation. Investigations take place within 20 working days of the complaint or incident and follow the [procedures](#) laid down in the legislation.

Legislation

- Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990
- Smokefree Environments (Prohibiting Smoking in Motor Vehicles Carrying Children) Amendment Act 2020

Resources

- Smokefree: [Smokefree at School](#)
- Ministry of Health: [Tobacco Control](#)
- HealthEd NZ: [Information and support resources](#)
- The Public Health Service at your local District Health Board

Review Responsibility: Principal, H/S Co-ordinator & DP

Date Confirmed: 9 June 2021

Principal: Karla Mitchell