



# Te Kauwhata College

## Safe School Policy

### PURPOSE

The Te Kauwhata College Board seeks to take all reasonable steps to promote a safe and inclusive environment at the college. We are committed to promoting our school as a safe and inclusive environment for all.

**National Education and Learning Objectives 1 and 2:**

**LEARNERS AT THE CENTRE:** *Learners with their whaanau are at the centre of education.*

**BARRIER FREE ACCESS:** *Great education opportunities and outcomes are within reach for every learner.*

**Definition:** The Board seeks to foster and develop a safe and positive physical and emotional school environment that creates a climate of trust and belonging.

Students, staff, parents and whaanau share the responsibility for making Te Kauwhata College a respectful and inclusive environment.

While we do have policies and procedures for dealing with inappropriate and undesirable behaviours that may occur, we actively promote wellbeing and safety as a responsibility for everyone in the school.

### How we do this:

- We have devised our student support processes around Wellbeing@school.
- We have an award-winning wrap-around Wellbeing programme, and a comprehensive pastoral support and guidance network. We regularly review our systems to ensure student pastoral needs are met.
- Our school-wide approach is student-focused, prioritising student needs above all else. We use restorative processes and frame our interactions with positive words. We focus on positive and inclusive relationships rather than using negative terms such as anti-bullying.
- We develop and deliver programmes to support good relationships between students and their peers.
- We deliver Peer Support training to all Senior students and promote a Tuakana Teina approach with all year levels.

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- We have established Mentor systems that provide each student with direct access to a teacher who knows and cares for them and year level Deans to support.
- Commitment to the 'Workwell' programme to ensure that our staff feel valued and supported at work.
- As a safe school we commit to regular and ongoing review of our systems and structures.
- We encourage open communication and reporting of incidents so that we can effectively address concerns. We also emphasise the importance of working together constructively and following established processes to ensure fairness and effective solutions.

## **Raising Awareness**

We recognise the importance of good communication between home and school to promote consistent messages. We will regularly raise awareness of our school community's positive school culture, for example through parent evenings, assemblies, class-based activities, and displays.

Our interaction with our wider school community will include reports to the Board, and information (including the policy) on the school's website. We will make the policy available in multiple formats (in print, on the web and available at school).

## **Evaluation and Review**

We will review and revise this policy annually to ensure that the school's safe school practices are recognised and celebrated. This will include an annual meeting to monitor, review and modify the policy and action plan (to reflect changes with the school, survey findings, incident reviews).

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| Reviewed: March 2025 | Next Review: March 2026 |
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