



Te Kauwhata College

Alcohol and Drug Policy

PURPOSE

In order to maintain a safe, healthy, and productive environment for all students, staff, and visitors, this policy sets out the school's stance on "substances".

For the purposes of this policy, "substances" include, but are not limited to:

- Illegal or classified drugs and associated paraphernalia.
- Alcohol
- Tobacco and cigarettes
- E-cigarettes and vapes
- Inhalants or solvents
- Psychoactive substances
- Misused prescription or over-the-counter medications

This policy applies to all students, staff, contractors, parents/caregivers, coaches, volunteers, and visitors while on school premises or participating in any school-related activity or event, whether on-site or off-site.

GUIDELINES

- The possession, use, distribution, or promotion of alcohol, drugs, or associated paraphernalia is strictly prohibited.
- Being under the influence of any substance while on school grounds or at any school-related activities is not permitted.
- Smoking and vaping are banned on school premises and at all school events and trips.
- Te Kauwhata College promotes a smoke-free and substance-free environment that supports good health.
- Alcohol and drug education is integrated into the Health curriculum and wellbeing space to support informed, responsible decision-making.
- Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the school's Behaviour Management Policy.
- All staff must model responsible attitudes and behaviour regarding alcohol and substance use.

Exception:

Alcohol may be consumed by staff or invited adults at approved school functions held outside of school hours, in designated areas, and only with prior written permission from the Principal. All participants are expected to consume alcohol responsibly and in a manner that reflects the values of the school. These events must comply with all relevant licensing requirements and health and safety regulations.

Related Policies

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Safe School Policy
- Personnel Policy

Reviewed: July 2025

Next Review: July 2028

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PROCEDURES

1. Student Conduct

Students must not:

- Possess, use, distribute, or promote illegal substances at school or during school-related activities.
- Be under the influence of substances while in uniform outside of school, on school grounds, or representing the school.
- Associate with others actively engaging in substance misuse.

2. Disciplinary Actions

Policy breaches may result in:

- Disciplinary action in line with the Behaviour Management Policy.
- Referral to appropriate support services, where appropriate.

3. Support and Health Response

- Students suspected of substance use will be supervised by the school nurse or Student Centre, and/or Deans/SLT for safety and wellbeing until a parent or caregiver can take over responsibility.
- Where appropriate, students may participate in voluntary drug testing as part of a support plan.
- The school will liaise with external health and support agencies to assist students with rehabilitation or intervention.

4. Prescription Medication

- Students may bring prescribed medication to school with prior written consent from a parent or caregiver. Unless alternative arrangements have been approved, all medication should be stored with the Student Centre Manager.
- This policy does not apply to prescribed medications when they are used by the individual for whom they were prescribed, taken according to medical instructions, within their expiry date, and kept in their original packaging.

5. Staff Expectations

- Staff are expected to model responsible attitudes and behaviours regarding alcohol and substances.
- Staff must not consume alcohol or misuse substances when responsible for students.
- Any concerns about student substance use must be reported promptly to the Deans or the Senior Leadership Team.

6. Off-Site and Extracurricular Activities

- All school-related trips, camps, and events are considered substance-free.
- Parents, caregivers, and volunteers participating in school activities are required to comply with this policy as if they were staff members.