**Substance Free Policy**

**Introduction:**

Definition: A Drug - 'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'.

(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

(This definition includes all illegal and legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, vapes, medicines, party pills, marijuana, "legal highs" or other psychoactive substances).

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the school Substance Free policy is to:

• Provide a safe physical and emotional learning environment for all

• Provide a smoke/vape, alcohol and drug-free environment

• Clarify the school's approach to the use or possession of alcohol, cigarettes/vapes and drugs for staff, students, trustees, parents/caregivers and the wider community

• Enable staff to manage incidents involving student use of alcohol, smoking, vaping and drugs on school premises, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved.

• Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the management of incidents involving substance use at Rodney College.

In addition to the curriculum related education programmes offered in PE/Health etc, students may

also wish to self-refer for support/advice on substance use with the Guidance Counsellor or school

based nurse. They can do this at anytime.

**Management of Substance Related Incidents**

The possession, use or supply of substances at school or on a school related activity is unacceptable. In dealing with substance use, in particular drug or alcohol related incidents, the school's primary concern will be with the health and safety of those involved, and of the school community as a whole.

Substance related incidents can be:

• Being in possession of cigarettes/ tobacco, vapes, alcohol, drugs and any associated paraphernalia

• Actual use or dealing of a substance on or off the school premises

• Disclosures of own or others' substance use from a student or parent and requests for help and support

• Identification by a staff member of being in possession of or having been in contact with a substance

• Student behaviour that is uncharacteristic, or indicating possible substance use such as: sudden drop­ off in work, uncharacteristic behaviour, and/or smells of drugs

**Substance Related Incidents in School**

When the student has been identified as having been, or suspected of having been, associated with substances then the school may refer the student to:

a) A substance-free education programme

b) A Substance Free Contract

Police will be informed when appropriate such as when a student is suspected of supplying drugs and/or a student fails a drug test while on the Substance Free contract.

Signed for the Board of Trustees:

Date:

Review Date: Term 1, 2026