

WAITAKERE COLLEGE

SECTION F: LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

POLICY: Stand Downs & Suspensions

DATE OF REVIEW: June 2016

**REVIEWERS: Board of Trustees, Brett Bradley (Deputy Principal)
Olivia Fugmann (Assistant Principal)**

GOAL:

To ensure compliance with M.O.E. regulations and procedures (as per Education Act 1989 and amendments/especially sections relating to Suspension and Stand Down). These procedures are to apply in cases of disciplinary action for serious misbehaviours which may result in Stand Down, Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion.

OBJECTIVES:

- To ensure that all the above disciplinary responses are carried out in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Principals and Boards of Trustees on Stand-Downs, Suspensions, Exclusions and Expulsions' as defined under sections 13-18 of the Education Act 1989 and as amended by the Education Amendment Act (No.2) 1998
- These procedures are detailed in the June 2003 and 2009 "Guidelines and Good Practice' supplements which replace the July 1999 guidance booklet.
- To see that the principles of 'natural justice' and 'due process' are given significance in the above processes
- To endeavour to utilise the existing regulations to facilitate fair and reasonable outcomes which do not unfairly diminish or impede the rights of all individuals to educational opportunities
- To provide a basis for response to serious disciplinary misdemeanours which protects the rights of all members of the College community and reinforces the expectations and regulations set down by the Board of Trustees
- To reinforce and maintain a climate of safety, security and positive opportunity for educational endeavour and achievement at Waitakere College

GUIDELINES:

- Serious disciplinary events should be dealt with in a constructive and fair and equitable manner with regard to the rights of the individual and the wider good of the College community
- This above determination is reflected in the commitment to the philosophy and practices of Restorative Practice. This is augmented by the development of the philosophy of 'The Waitakere Way' and its underpinning practices and processes for resolution of problems via restorative meetings. (a code of conduct, expectations and interpersonal respect for students and staff).
- At the time of being formally notified of a decision to Suspend or Stand Down, notification will be given to affected students and parents regarding access to counselling. The recommendation will be made that they take the opportunity to meet and consult with Support Services.
- It is recommended wherever appropriate and practicable, that the College make contact with the students and family to facilitate a meeting prior to the suspension meeting to engage the assistance of Support Services.
- Notwithstanding the above, the College gives consideration to the inalienable rights of all students, staff (members of the school community); those who are victims of misdemeanours and their rights to enjoy a safe and positive school environment.

Chairperson

Principal

Date