

CONSULTATION ON HEALTH PROGRAMME

Dear Parents/Caregivers

The Education Act requires that, at least once every two years, boards of trustees produce a written statement about how the school will implement health education.

The legislation requires schools to:

- Inform the school community about the content of the health education components of the curriculum; and
- Consult with members of the school community regarding the way in which the school should implement health education; and
- Describe, in broad terms, the health education needs of the school's students.

It's time, again, to consult with you on the health programme we offer in Kia Aroha College.

Attached is an overview of the health programme we propose.

- Page 2 provides an overview of the NZ Curriculum requirements which are compulsory for all schools. These are two strands of the Health & PE Curriculum that contain safety management and relationships with others. In these two strands we are required to cover issues such as drug and alcohol prevention and sexual health education.
- Page 3 provides an overview of these two components and the initiatives the schools intend to implement to provide our young people with access to quality, trained, services and clinics which will help them reduce at-risk behaviours and keep themselves safe.
- Page 3 also describes the culturally responsive aspects of learning that apply on this campus, that are in addition to the requirements of the NZ Curriculum. Specifically these outline culturally appropriate health & wellbeing practices for Maori & Pasifika youth.

It is important for parents to understand that under NZ law, from the age of 16, young people have full control over their own health information. Our school initiatives will always encourage young people to talk to their parents/caregiver/whanau about health concerns or with their permission allow the health professional to do so on their behalf. However the law allows the following:

At what age may a young person give consent to health care?

Under the Guardianship Act 1968, **young people over the age of 16 may consent to health care procedures.** As with any adult, a health care practitioner may overturn this right if there are reasonable grounds for believing the person is not competent to give their informed consent.

Young people under 16 may consent to their own medical treatment in the case of:

- abortion – parental consent is not required whatever the age of the young person (section 25a Guardianship Act 1968)
- contraceptive advice and treatment (repeal of section 3 Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977).

In general we cover Levels 4 to 8 of the curriculum in Kia Aroha College. Individual parents may request, by writing to the principal, that their children be excluded from tuition of parts of the health programme related to sexual health education. This requirement does not extend to exclusion at any other time when a teacher deals with a question raised by another student that relates to sexuality education, and does not prevent students seeking help or resources from our health clinics and/or health personnel under the legal guidelines explained above.

If you have any comments, feedback, suggestions or questions we would be pleased to hear them. Please address these by sending a brief note to me or have a chat to your child's teacher who will pass your comments on.

Comments need to be in by Friday 12 July 2013.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ann Milne', is placed over a light yellow rectangular background.

Ann Milne PhD
PRINCIPAL