



Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt

Vaping Message to Students – Year Level Assemblies

SHC is a vaping and smoke free site. The school's expectation is that there is to be no smoking or vaping at school. 'At school' includes on trips and while representing the College.

The NZ law states:

- It is illegal to vape on school grounds
- It is illegal to buy a vape if you are not 18+
- It is illegal to buy a vape device for someone else who is not 18+
- It is illegal to vape on public transport because they are also smoke free areas by law.

What Else Do We Know?

- We know that as teenagers you are curious, we know that what you want to try new things
- We know that people share vapes – Covid is still around
- We know that students are vaping in the bathrooms and classrooms
- We know that vaping seriously harms brain development and has serious impacts on the lungs and other organs of the body
- We know that people have died from vaping.

If you are caught vaping or sharing a vape the consequence varies depending on several factors. These depend on:

- If you were the one who brought the vape to school
- If you are sharing your vape with others
- If you are vaping in front of others or in a classroom
- If this your first time, 2nd time, 3rd time etc.

Number 1: Your parents will always be contacted

Number 2: Depending on factors listed above, you will attend an after-school programme that will teach you about the impacts of vaping. We treat this as a health issue first and foremost.

Number 3: You will be expected to do community service.

Number 4: If you continue to vape you are continuing to do something against the law, despite being asked not to. A more serious consequence will apply, including involving the community police officers. You will be offered support such as counselling.

What do we want you to do?

If you notice, tell. Don't be a bystander. Don't give in to peer pressure. You can say no! This can be via Teams if you do not want to see someone in person.

We want SHC to be a place where all students are healthy, feel safe, and that they respect themselves and their environment.

Doors to classrooms will be open at interval and lunchtime, and wherever practical during class time. Blinds to be up and lights on at all times.

One person in a cubicle and use the bathrooms appropriately.

This week we will be sending a letter home to parents about our concern around vaping and the actions we are taking to stop vaping at Sacred Heart College. This includes talking to you about vaping being illegal at school (including on trips/representing the school) and what happens if you vape at school.

If you have any questions, please come to see me after this.