

Stand-downs, Suspensions and Exclusions Policy

The Board of Trustees wants every student at Maungaraki School to reach their highest possible standard in educational achievement. However, each student's right to an education must be balanced with the need to ensure all students and staff are able to learn and teach in an emotionally and physically safe environment.

A student may face stand-down or suspension if they show gross misconduct, continual disobedience or behaviour risking serious harm. If the Principal decides to suspend a student, the Board will form a Discipline Committee to determine the outcome of the suspension within seven school days of the suspension decision.

Discipline Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose

To ensure that all processes relating to the suspension of students adhere to the requirements of the Education and Training Act 2020, Education (Stand-down, Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion) Rules 1999 and Ministry of Education guidelines.

Committee Members

All Trustees (other than the Principal) are eligible to stand on the Discipline Committee. The chair of the Committee will be determined on a case by case basis by the sitting Discipline Committee. The quorum for the Committee shall be three Trustees.

Delegated Authority

Under Clause 8 of the Education (School Boards) Regulations 2020, certain powers of the Board shall be delegated to the Discipline Committee. The Committee will:

- review the Principal's decision to suspend
- act in fairness, without bias or prejudice and with confidentiality
- act within legislation and the Ministry of Education guidelines and student (human) rights set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993
- act only on written and agreed information, not hearsay
- use principles of natural justice in discipline hearing procedures
- make recommendations on discipline matters to the Board as necessary.

The Board will be kept informed of the number of stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions as part of the report delivered by the Principal at each Board meeting.

Maungaraki School

Resources:

- Ministry of Education: [Stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions guidelines – Part 1](#)

Approved: November 2021

Review date: November 2024