

FAIRFIELD INTERMEDIATE

SCHOOL

OPERATIONAL POLICIES

Part 3 Operational Policy

1. Curriculum Delivery Policy

Delivery of the curriculum shall foster student progress and achievement and meet all board expectations and legislative requirements. Therefore the principal must ensure:

1. achievement of the Charter aims and targets
2. compliance with the National Administration Guidelines
3. there is a focus on the national priority groups of Maori, Pasifika and students with special learning needs in school planning and reporting
4. that board approval is sought before changes to the school curriculum requiring increased expenditure or significant changes to programmes or staffing are made

Review schedule: Triennially

2. Personnel Policy

The board delegates responsibility to the principal on all matters relating to the management of staff in the expectation that they will be managed in a sound, fair, and respectful manner in accordance with the current terms of employment documents and identified good practice. Therefore, the principal must ensure:

1. that all employment related legislative requirements are applied
2. all employees their rights to personal dignity and safety and ensure that matters are resolved in an appropriate and fair manner
3. a smoke free environment is provided
4. that employment records are maintained and that all employees have written employment agreements
5. that performance agreements are established for all staff and that reviews are undertaken annually
6. a suitable professional development programme, which takes into consideration the requirements of the strategic and annual plans, is provided as part of each employee’s performance agreement
7. board approval is sought for any requests for discretionary staff leave with pay
8. board approval is sought for any requests for discretionary staff leave without pay of longer than 4 days
9. board approval is sought for any requests for staff travelling overseas on school business
10. the board is advised of any staff absences longer than 14 school days
11. the requirements of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 are met
12. Advice is sought as necessary from NZSTA advisors where employment issues arise

Review schedule: Triennially

3. Appointments Policy

To assist in the appointment of quality staff to any vacancy which may arise, appointment committees with expertise relevant to the vacancy, will be selected to carry out the appropriate appointment procedures. Therefore, the principal must ensure that they:

1. determine the composition of the various appointment committees according to the schedule outlined below:

a. Appointment of the deputy-principal, head of departments/senior teachers will involve an appointment committee consisting of the principal, the board chair and a further trustee (should the board feel the need to include one).

b. Unless determined otherwise by the board, appointment of all other teachers, part time teachers, long term relieving teachers, and non-teaching staff will be the responsibility of the principal in consultation with the board chair or delegate where deemed necessary.

Appointment of the principal is the responsibility of the board which will determine the process

Review schedule: Triennially

4. Financial Planning Policy

The board of trustees has overall responsibility for the financial management of the school but delegates the day-to-day management of the school’s finance’s and budget to the principal. The principal, in association with the Finance Committee, is responsible for recommending an annual operating and capital budget to the board within the timelines specified in the Finance Committee terms of reference.

Budgeting shall not fail to reflect the annual plan, risk financial jeopardy nor fail to show a generally acceptable level of foresight.

Thus the budget should:

1. reflect the results sought by the board
2. reflect the priorities as established by the board
3. comply where the board’s requirement is for a balanced budget
4. demonstrate an appropriate degree of conservatism in all estimates

Review schedule: Triennially

5. Financial Condition Policy

The financial viability of the school must be protected at all times. The board understands that the possibility of theft or fraud cannot be entirely eliminated however the principal is required to show there are in place safeguards and robust, clear procedures to minimise the risk of either event.

**Resource**: Reference should be made to 5.4 of the Financial Information for Schools Handbook (FISH). Therefore, the principal must ensure that:

1. unauthorised debt or liability is not incurred
2. generally accepted accounting practices or principles are not violated
3. tagged/committed funds are not used for purposes other than those approved
4. more funds than have been allocated in the fiscal year are not spent without prior board approval
5. all money owed to the school is collected in a timely manner
6. timely payment to staff and other creditors is made
7. unauthorised property is not sold or purchased
8. all relevant government returns are completed on time
9. no one person has complete authority over the school’s financial transactions
10. when making any purchase:

* of over $1000, comparative prices are sought
* of over $5000 an adequate review on ongoing costs, value and reliability is undertaken
* of over $10000 on a single item board approval is first sought

1. effective systems are in place to meet the requirements of the payroll system

Review schedule: Triennially

6. Asset Protection Policy

Assets may not be unprotected, inadequately maintained or unnecessarily risked. The principal is delegated day to day responsibility for ensuring that the programming and funding of general maintenance of the school grounds, buildings, facilities and other assets occurs in order to provide a clean, safe, tidy and hygienic work and learning environment for students and staff. Accordingly, the principal must:

1. all board assets are insured
2. not allow unauthorised personnel or groups to handle funds or school property
3. not subject plant and equipment to improper wear and tear or insufficient maintenance or inappropriate use
4. maintain an up to date asset register for all items of furnishing, plant machinery, equipment, text and library books costing more than $500.00
5. ensure the implementation of the 10 year property maintenance plan
6. engage sufficient property maintenance staff for the school within budget limitations
7. receive board approval for maintenance contracts over $5000 for any one contract
8. conduct competitive tenders for all contracting
9. protect intellectual property, information and files from loss or significant damage or unauthorised access or duplication
10. not receive, process or disburse funds under controls that are insufficient to meet the board-appointed auditor’s standards
11. not invest or hold operating capital in insecure accounts, or in non-interest bearing accounts except where necessary to facilitate ease in operational transactions

Review schedule: Triennially

7. Health and Safety Policy

Students and staff shall have a safe physical and emotional learning environment. Therefore, the principal must:

1. take all reasonable steps to protect students, staff and visitors to the school from unsafe or unhealthy conditions or practices
2. ensure that the staff code of conduct is implemented effectively
3. ensure there is zero tolerance to bullying and that there are effective processes in place
4. comply with the provisions of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992
5. provide a smoke free environment
6. ensure a risk analysis management system (RAMS) is carried out where and when appropriate
7. seek approval for all overnight stays/camps attesting first to their compliance with (4) above
8. consult with the community every two years regarding the health programme being delivered to students
9. advise the board chair of any emergency situations as soon as possible

Review schedule: Triennially

8. Legal Responsibilities Policy

School procedures will meet the legislative statutes and regulations as set down in the appropriate Acts, Ministry of Education circulars and the Education Gazette.

Review schedule: Triennially