# Operational Policy: Ākonga Alcohol (NAG 5)

## Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ

## Statement of Intent:

Under the National Administration Guideline NAG 5, Boards of Trustees are required to “provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students” (NAG 5a) and to “comply in full with any legislation currently in force that may be developed to ensure the safety of students and employees (NAG 5c).

The Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ) will promote the safety and well-being of ākonga through forbidding the consumption of alcohol by ākonga on BLENNZ premises, other buildings occupied by ākonga and staff, and during immersion courses or on EOTC activities.

BLENNZ accepts responsibility for ākonga:

a. on normal school days from the time day ākonga leave home to attend the Homai Campus School to when they arrive home or to some other dwelling or place of work as their parents and/or guardians have arranged or acknowledge;

b. during out of school hours for those ākonga enrolled in residential programmes at the Homai campus;

c. during hours ākonga attend day or residential immersion courses;

d. on any trip, excursion or sporting outing where the travel arrangements and/or accommodation have been organised in the name of BLENNZ by BLENNZ, a sports coach or some other agent acting for BLENNZ from the time the group leave BLENNZ to the time they return, and until they are delivered into the care of their parents/caregivers.

## Policy Requirements:

1. Ākonga should not under any circumstances drink alcoholic beverages, have them in their possession while enrolled in BLENNZ programmes, or return to any BLENNZ campus in an intoxicated state.

2. Staff and volunteers accepting responsibility for the supervision of ākonga attending BLENNZ programmes will be vigilant and to report any breach of this policy to a senior staff member.

3. Through the Health & Physical Education curriculum, educational opportunities will be provided to encourage ākonga to make responsible choices about the use of alcohol. Information on these programmes will be provided to parents.

4. In the event of ākonga behaving in a manner which causes concern regarding use/abuse of alcohol, staff should inform their respective Senior Manager.

5. The appropriate member of the Senior Management Team will investigate and interview ākonga as appropriate.

6. Where any involvement with alcohol can be considered to be more than a suspicion, the Principal will be informed. The Principal will convene a meeting with appropriate persons (including representatives of the Board of Trustees) to review the incident and make decisions as to further action. This may include stand down, suspension or expulsion in line with Ministry of Education guidelines.

7. Parents/guardians will be informed in all cases where it is established that ākonga are involved with alcohol at school.

## Supporting Documents:

[DHB - School Alcohol Policies](https://www.southerndhb.govt.nz/files/16901_20160421132045-1461201645.pdf)

[Ministry of Education Guidelines: Sale, Supply and Consumption of Alcohol](https://www.education.govt.nz/school/property/state-schools/day-to-day-management/alcohol/)

[Ministry of Education - Link to NAGs](%20https:/www.education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/legislation/nags/)

Approved: 

Date: 1 October 2023

Next Review: 2026