



Hostel Report

School Name: Sacred Heart Girls' College (N Plymouth)

Profile Number: 174

Location: New Plymouth

Background

The Chief Review Officer has the authority to carry out reviews (which may be general or in relation to particular matters) of the provision of a safe physical and emotional environment that supports learning for students accommodated in hostels under section 470 of the Education and Training Act 2020. This function is delegated to review officers who have the powers to enter and carry out review of hostels under section 472 of the Act.

Findings

The hostel manager and the hostel owner has attested in the Hostel Assurance Statement that they meet the requirements of the Hostel Regulations 2005.

Reasonable steps are being taken by Elizabeth House to provide boarders with a safe physical and emotional environment

Boarders appreciate the 'home away from home' environment, friendships and the opportunities to become self-reliant, whilst supported by the hostel staff. Pastoral care is prioritised and the hostel manager models inclusion to her staff. There are a range of personnel who students have a positive relationship with and readily access for emotional and social support. There is also very good assistance for boarders' wishing to engage in extra-curricular activities outside of school.

The hostel accommodation is comfortable, with a range of areas available for students to relax, socialise or have quiet time. The students also have access to the school facilities. There are opportunities for students at all year levels to take on leadership and buddy roles within the hostel and to provide feedback on various aspects of hostel life. Routines and expectations are well understood and followed throughout the hostel.

Learning is supported through supervised homework. Supervisors work with the boarders and have a range of skills they share with them.

More coherent alignment and governance between the school and its hostel, with particular regard to policies and procedures, would better support boarders and their families by having more consistent practices and expectations. Clear lines of management and governance by the various stakeholders would also strengthen the day-to-day running of the hostel.

Actions for Compliance

ERO and the Trust Board of Elizabeth House identified non-compliance in relation to:

- regular review of hostel policies and procedures
- evacuation records show that regular (once per term) emergency drills have not been carried out.

In order to address this, the Trust Board must:

- fully review and update all hostel policies and procedures to ensure that they are aligned with and cover all current legal requirements and Ministry of Education best practice expectations and guidelines
- through regular reporting to the Trust Board, ensure hostel staff carry out regular emergency drills; fire, earthquake and lockdown, to improve practice and fully meet all regulatory expectations.

The hostel owner/Manager has since taken steps to address the areas of non-compliance identified.



Sharon Kelly
Acting Director of Schools

5 February 2025

About the School

The Education Counts website provides further information about the school's student population, student engagement and student achievement. educationcounts.govt.nz/home