

WAVE Award

John Street Kindergarten Smokefree 2019

Kaiako took part in the Little Lungs programme, which aims to familiarise teaching teams with the Governments' 2025 goal of a smokefree Aotearoa. The programme also updates them on emerging issues, like third hand smoke and e-cigarettes and enables kaiako to consider practical ways to confidently raise smokefree homes and cars conversations with whānau and the wider community.

The team at John Street kindergarten decided that an effective way to promote smokefree issues was to update their Smokefree policy and signage to include banning the use of electronic cigarettes on and around the Kindergarten property, and at Kindergarten events.

"We are in a very central location and this means that sometimes people in the community will smoke within view of our tamariki. Vaping was a new but very visual issue for us, so if our signs can make people stop and think about the impact of this on our tamariki then we are achieving what we set out to do" said head teacher Kristy McKenzie. "We had issues with parents vaping at the gate, but once we explained the policy, they were more than happy to support it".

The kindergarten's WAVE setting plan included a successful funding application to update their smokefree signage. The new signs makes the smokefree and vapefree status of the kindergarten clear to the community. At the same time kaiako and whānau updated the Smokefree policy to demonstrate their investment in tamariki health and wellbeing by clearly stating the policy includes the use of electronic cigarettes and nicotine delivery systems.

Kristy went on to say, "We are really passionate about Little Lungs and the image that our whānau portray to our wider community as well. Tamariki do not get a say in the poison they breathe from second hand smoke and we need to be firm in the message that is sent to our whānau. This is not acceptable, and we need to be advocates for the well-being of the tamariki who attend our Kindergarten. Kaiako feel empowered by the support we received from Hazel, Debbie and WAVE to confidently get this message across".

WAVE congratulates the team on their initiative. They have done a huge amount of work towards encouraging their smokefree status on both sides of the gate. John Street Kindergarten have become the first education setting to update their smokefree policy and signage with the support of WAVE.

*John Street Kindergarten's
Smokefree & Vapefree Sign*



WELL-BEING AND VITALITY IN EDUCATION

2019

