

Rangiora High School Board



Firearms Policy

Rationale

The School Board is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all workers, students, visitors and contractors by complying with the Arms Act 1983 and Arms Regulations 1992. This policy applies to and is to be followed by all members of the school's leadership team, workers, students, contractors, temporary workers, volunteers and visitors.

Definition

An airgun is any air rifle, air pistol or weapon that has a gas or compressed air firing mechanism. Under the Arms Act 1983, 'airgun' includes air rifles, air pistols, BB guns, soft air pellet guns and paintball guns. Some more powerful airguns (classified as specially dangerous airguns) are treated in the Arms Act 1983 as firearms.

The Arms Act 1983 defines a **firearm** as anything from which any shot, bullet, missile or other projectile can be discharged by force of explosive. It includes anything that has been adapted so that it can discharge any shot, bullet, missile or other projectile by force of explosive. It also includes anything that for the time being is not capable of discharging any shot, bullet, missile or other projectile by force of explosive, but which by its completion or repair would be capable of doing so.

'Imitation firearm' means anything that has the appearance of being a firearm capable of discharging any shot, bullet, missile or other projectile, whether or not it is capable of discharging any such projectile. This includes toy guns.

Under Section 66 of the Arms Act 1983, every person in occupation of any land or a building (such as a school hostel), or the driver of any vehicle (such as transporting students to a firing range and carrying firearms), is deemed to be in **possession** of any firearm found on that land, building, or vehicle, unless the person proves that the firearm was not theirs and that the firearm was in the possession of some other person.

'Immediate supervision' means that the licensed person is within reach and in control of the person using a firearm or airgun. The person providing the supervision must be able to take control of the firearm or airgun. They cannot be in possession or control of another firearm or airgun. On a shooting range or paintball field, the rules in place, such as a fenced field and supervision of umpires, referees or range officers may contribute towards supervision, providing circumstances allow supervisors to take quick and easy control of the firearm or airgun when required.

Purposes

The Board is committed to:

- Complying with the Arms Act 1983.
- Engaging with the local community and understanding their position on firearms in schools.
- Running regular firearm safety courses for students who participate in small bore and clay bird/target shooting activities.
- Ensuring there are alternative arrangements in place for communicating with parents/caregivers whose first language is not English and/or te reo Māori.
- Completing a risk analysis management plan for each event involving firearms.

Guidelines

Firearms are only to be brought on to school grounds as outlined in the Ministry of Education guidelines. These include for educational purposes, Defence Force and NZ Police visits, careers days, firearms safety courses, antique auctions, or special events such as Anzac day.

- All firearms brought on to school grounds must be unloaded. Their bolts should also be removed.
- No ammunition shall be brought on to school grounds with firearms. Except for good, proper and lawful reasons such as EOTC activities, an Anzac Commemorative event where blanks/ dummies/ inert ammunition are used.
- The Principal shall consult with the parent community before any firearms are brought on to school grounds as to whether the programme fits with their values and beliefs.
- Before firearms are brought on to school grounds a risk analysis management plan shall be completed and made available to parents of students involved in the firearms programme.

Outside of the processes outlined above, firearms should only be brought onto school grounds in emergency situations (eg. NZ Police).

Firearms on school grounds shall, at all times, be under the control and responsibility of an authorised user who shall also hold an appropriate firearms licence (unless the activity is endorsed by the school and involves board approved student participation.) The Principal or Associate Principal shall sight the firearms licence of each authorised user bringing firearms onto school grounds.

- The Principal's EA shall maintain a log of all firearms brought on to school grounds, arrival and departure time, the name and signature of the authorised user and their firearms licence number and expiry date.
- The authorised user shall comply with the seven firearms safety rules as specified by the NZ Police.

These procedures will not need to be followed by the NZ Police or Armed Forces personnel in the event of a security incident where they need to come on to school premises for law enforcement or national security purposes.

Rangiora High School Small Bore Rifle Shooting Club

1. The coach or manager is responsible for the security of the firearms storage unit/armoury at the MainPower Oval.
2. The firearms storage unit/armoury is always locked in accordance with the required standard.
3. The coach or manager will always hold a current firearms licence.
4. The Rangiora Smallbore Rifle Shooting Clubs' firearms storage unit/armoury (MainPower Oval) has been approved by the NZ Police in accordance with the relevant legislation and regular inspections are carried out by local Police.
5. Only firearms possessed by a firearms licence holder are to be in the storage facility.
6. All students who have firearms stored must follow these steps:
 - a. Participate in regular safety training.
 - b. The firearm must be in a clearly named and proper firearms case and always stored in the firearms storage unit/ armoury.
 - c. No ammunition can be stored directly with the firearm at any location within the Rangiora Smallbore Rifle Shooting Club.
 - d. Students must never have any live ammunition on their person or in their possession unless they are participating in a school endorsed activity.
 - e. A firearm can only be moved from the firearms storage unit/armoury with an adult present.
 - f. The adult must be a Police vetted coach/manager and hold a firearms licence. Note: Even if a student holds a firearms licence they must not remove a firearm from the storage unit/armoury, unless a licensed adult is present.

Related Policies

- Health and Safety Policy

Relevant Documentation and Legislation

- The Arms Act 1983
- Arms Regulations 1992
- Firearms Safety Code
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
- [Guidelines for schools to develop or review a firearms policy.](#)

Date of Review	October 2023
Date of Next Review	October 2026
Date Adopted by the Board	March 2024
Date of Amendment by the Board	