Picton High School

Chewing Gum & Eating in Class Policy

**Rationale:**
Picton High School has had significant concerns with the amount of food scraps, litter and discarded chewing gum that is left in classrooms at the conclusion of lessons. The consumption of food creates distractions in the lesson and prevents optimum learning from taking place (except in the case of Home Economics classes). Ample time is provided during the school day for the students to consume food and drink during meal breaks; which renders the need for eating during class time unnecessary.

**Aims:**
To reduce the amount of litter found within the classrooms and to minimise the amount of chewing gum that gets stuck under tables. To reduce the disruption that eating or drinking in class can have on student learning and productive classroom environments.

**Chewing Gum & Food Consumption Procedures**
- Chewing gum is banned from school premises.
- Food cannot be consumed during class time, (with the exception of food practical lessons).
- Drinking of fluids should not occur during class time.
- These rules should be adhered to by all unless there is a physical or medical reason to the contrary.

**Sanctions**
If a student is caught eating or drinking during class time then the following sanctions will be implemented:
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Infraction – the classroom teacher will remind the student of the school rules and ask them to put the food/drink away. In the case of chewing gum, the teacher will instruct the student to put the gum into the nearest rubbish bin.
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Infraction – the classroom teacher will issue a detention or similar sanction
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} Infraction – the classroom teacher will issue a detention or similar sanction, ring the parent or guardian and issue 5 demerit points
- 4\textsuperscript{th} Infraction - the student will be referred to the Head Teacher for repeatedly breaking the school rules and this will invoke the school’s Welfare and Discipline Policy.

**Evaluation**
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

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