



# Aquinas College

183 Pyes Pa Road, RD3, Tauranga 3173, NZ

## OPERATIONAL POLICY

### College Ball

Latest Revision	April 2021
Reviewer	Principal
Next Revision	February 2022
Associated Governance Policies	5.9 Health and Safety 5.10 Student Behaviour Management

#### INTRODUCTION

The school ball is primarily for Year 12 and 13 students to experience a formal adult social occasion with the appropriate formal dress, food, music and dancing and the opportunity for interaction with staff and other students in this setting.

#### PURPOSE

1. To provide a sense of occasion and enthusiasm for a formal adult social occasion through the expectation that dress and protocol are formal.
2. To help foster College spirit and celebrate College life.
3. To introduce students to the expectations of a formal adult social occasion.
4. To have an enjoyable and exciting evening that will be remembered in future years.

#### PROCEDURE

##### Pre-Ball

1. Aquinas College is not opposed in principle to pre-ball functions but accepts no responsibility for them. These events are private functions entirely within the control and jurisdiction of parents.

##### Ball

1. The Aquinas College Ball is for Aquinas College students. Year 13 students can invite an outside partner if their parents attest to them being in a committed relationship. Said guest must be school-aged. Year 12 students are not permitted to invite outside partners.
2. All attendees, including non-Aquinas College partners, and their parents will sign the Code of Conduct, agreeing to the rules for the duration of the ball.
3. Aquinas College takes full responsibility for students at the College Ball venue until the end of the ball.
4. The ball will be supervised by school staff in conjunction with venue staff and hired security.
5. There will be no entry for students to the ball venue 30 minutes after the published start time each year. No student is permitted to leave without the express permission of their Dean, the Deputy Principal or the Principal before the end of the ball.

6. *The College Ball is a drug and alcohol free event. No alcohol or drugs (including synthetic drugs e.g. legal highs) will be permitted and smoking (including electronic cigarettes and vapes) is prohibited.*
7. *The College in association with the venue reserves the right to breathalyse all attendees. Where there is evidence that alcohol has been consumed, that student or guest will be declined entry. Parents will be called to collect them. This decision is at the absolute discretion of the Senior Leadership Team.*
8. *Appropriate behaviour will be expected at all times and the College reserves the right to ask anyone behaving inappropriately to leave the function. This decision is at the absolute discretion of the Senior Leadership Team. If such a situation occurs, parents will be informed immediately to collect their child.*
9. *If an outside partner is sent home for reasons stated above (numbers 6, 7 and 8), their Aquinas College partner may also be required to leave.*
10. *Students will be discouraged from bringing cars to the ball.*
11. *Transport to and from the ball will be a parental responsibility. Unchaperoned buses or taxis are not permitted.*
12. *The College will meet the cost of the ball tickets for staff attending the ball and undertaking supervision of the students and guests.*
13. *The Ball is a College event and therefore behavioural expectations are the same as those in a school setting. If there is a serious breach of school rules it may result in a stand-down or suspension of the student.*

#### **After-Ball**

1. *Responsibility for students after the ball rests with the parents or guardians and not with the College.*
2. *Aquinas College does not support after-ball functions. These events are expressly discouraged, and Aquinas College accepts no responsibility for students once they leave the ball venue.*