

Free Professional Development

Has your school:

- Identified an interest in reducing stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions?
- Received an ERO report intimating governance, compliance issues or legal obligations as areas that could be improved?
- Had significant or frequent contact with YouthLaw advocating for students at suspension hearings?

YouthLaw is a nationwide legal centre for under 25s. We offer a variety of free PD workshops for schools aiming to: (a) reduce the number of students being removed from school; (b) improve understanding of student rights and obligations; and (c) empower educators and staff to act in the best interests of children and young people.

Our workshops empower education professionals to improve student and school outcomes.

What does YouthLaw offer?

We offer a range of legally-focused professional development workshops. These include:

- The right to an education and the rights of others
- School discipline and Section 14
- Searches, confiscations and freedom of expression
- Relevant legislation in educational practice
- Restorative justice in NZ's youth justice system
- Advocacy for guidance counsellors and school nurses

How do we fit with Professional Learning and Development *Best Evidence Synthesis* guidelines?

Our workshops:

- Strengthen valued outcomes for diverse educators
- Reflect the education community's national and international legal obligations
- Build on existing knowledge and practice
- Encourage open expression of teacher theories
- Challenge existing theories and go beyond clarity of delivery
- Judge decision-making based on student outcomes

How much does it cost?

Auckland workshops are free of charge, however koha towards travel expenses is always appreciated. Outside Auckland, Schools are asked to pay for travel costs from Auckland. Workshops last around 2 hours, but content can be tailored to suit schools. Attendees numbering 20+ make workshops viable.

How do we connect to your school's goals?

We are directly relevant to the vision of the NZ Curriculum: keeping more students in school means more young people who are confident, connected, actively involved and lifelong learners.

Providing better outcomes for students through their retention in the mainstream education system, and adequate provision of guidance and counselling in disciplinary matters, are outlined in the Education Act 1989 sections 3 and 77 respectively.

How has this worked in other schools?

"The staff professional development session that you provided for us was outstanding Ben! It was incredibly useful in terms of the outcomes that we are trying to achieve at Manurewa Intermediate by stimulating staff interest and awareness of these issues. In addition it served a greater purpose in helping change attitudes based on an improved understanding of the legal framework we need to work under!"

Iain Taylor
Principal, Manurewa Intermediate

To find out more or to make a booking contact::

Ben Mills, Education Coordinator
DDI 09 306 7591 or email ben@youthlaw.co.nz

Curriculum Implementation Support

YouthLaw can assist with curriculum implementation in the following key areas:

- human rights elements of the NZC
- legal and citizenship elements of the NZC
- fulfilment of schools' international obligations

The objective of our Curriculum Implementation programme is to assist schools in the delivery of wider and more entrenched human rights, legal and citizenship education across the breadth of the NZ Curriculum.

Where do human rights, legal education and citizenship fit into the NZC?

Vision	<p>Confident: Positive in their own identity</p> <p>Connected: Able to relate well to others; Members of communities; International citizens</p> <p>Actively involved: Participants in a range of life contexts; Contributors to the well-being of New Zealand</p> <p>Lifelong learners: Informed decision makers</p>
Values	<p>equity, through fairness and social justice</p> <p>community and participation for the common good</p> <p>integrity, which involves being honest, responsible, and accountable and acting ethically</p> <p>respect themselves, others, and human rights</p>
Principles	<p>Inclusion: The curriculum is non-sexist, non-racist, and non-discriminatory</p>
Key Competencies	<p>Relating to others</p> <p>Participating and contributing</p>
Learning areas	<p>Health and Physical Education</p> <p>> Healthy Communities and Environments</p> <p>> Rights, Responsibilities and Laws levels 6-7</p> <p>Social Science</p> <p>> Social Studies levels 5-7</p>

What can YouthLaw do?

- > Co-develop and deliver sustainable educational units to students
- > Train teaching staff in human rights instruments and classroom discourses
- > Assist with schools' policy development to ensure human rights compliance

What are schools' international obligations?

New Zealand schools, as agents of the State under the Education Act 1989, are legally bound by international law:

UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26(2)

"Education shall be directed to the...strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms"

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 29

"State Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: (b) the development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations"

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