



Aquinas College

183 Pyes Pa Road, RD3, Tauranga 3173, NZ

OPERATIONAL POLICY

Self-Determined Learning

Latest Revision	March 2020
Reviewer	Principal
Next Revision	February 2022
Associated Governance Policies	1.1 Curriculum Delivery 1.3 Timetable

INTRODUCTION

Aquinas College operates Self-Determined Learning periods for Year 13 students and Year 12 students studying a Level 3 course. Year 13 students receive five periods of self-determined learning across their two-week timetable cycle. Self-Determined Learning periods foster the attitude, behaviours, self-management and thinking skills students will need every day as they transition from our College into further study or employment. Because students take an active role in directing their own learning, they develop the skills necessary to prioritise their tasks and manage their learning.

The College's Self-Determined Learning Policy provides clarity of operation and ensures compliance to it by students. This policy includes information about student obligations, responsibilities and the nature of possible consequences associated with Self-Determined Learning Management Policy breaches which undermine the objectives of the College environment.

PROCEDURE

1. Self-Determined Learning

- 1.1 *Each student has been provided with a copy of the "Self-Determined Learning Management Policy". Year 13 teachers are asked to go through the Policy with students at the beginning of the year.*
- 1.2 *Self-Determined Learning blocks do not begin until Week 7 of Term 1.*
- 1.3 *The College provides supervised classrooms to enable students to determine their own learning needs, whether it be independent study, the continuation of course work or direct support from their teacher in the form of tutorials.*
- 1.4 *Students operating in supervised classrooms are to use this time for the benefit of their learning. Students are not permitted to socialise or play games during this time.*

- 1.5 *Self-Determined Learning supervision is active supervision, support and guidance. Supervising teachers will need to actively enforce the Self-Determined Learning Management Policy. It is not an administration time for teachers.*
- 1.6 *Students are not to be given permission to leave Self-Determined Learning periods once the lesson has begun.*
- 1.7 *It is essential that an accurate roll is taken at the beginning of each lesson, so unexplained absences can be dealt with quickly.*
- 1.8 *Students who are not present in the Self-Determined Learning lesson need to be marked **ABSENT** by the classroom teacher.*

2. Self-Determined Learning Green Card

- 2.1 *Students who abide by the Aquinas College Self-Determined Learning Management Policy and maintain an acceptable level of achievement necessary to meet the requirements of NCEA Level 3 will be issued a Green Card. Green Cards are issued by the Year 13 Dean (or Year 12 Dean for applicable Year 12 students). It will be revoked if students do not abide by the Self-Determined Learning Management Policy or no longer maintain an acceptable level of achievement necessary to meet the requirements of NCEA Level 3. This decision is at the sole discretion of the applicable Dean.*
- 2.2 *In order to give Year 13 students and applicable Year 12 students some flexibility in the organisation of their learning time, the following arrangements apply for those students who have met the criteria for a green card:*
- 2.3 *If a student wishes to work in with another teacher and this is agreeable to the teacher, that teacher must assume responsibility of supervision for the student, and mark the roll for that period. The teacher should add a note indicating why the student was not at their allocated study period. [e.g. Student was working on their art portfolio].*
- 2.4 *Students are not permitted to study with another teacher unless they have made arrangements with that staff member PRIOR to their Self-Determined Learning period.*

3. Period 1 and Period 6 Self-Determined Learning Periods

- 3.1 *Students who hold a Green Card and have a Self-Determined Learning period during Period 1 will have the option of either attending school or studying at home. Similarly, students may also leave at the beginning of Period 6 if they have a Self-Determined Learning period in Period 6. Students must sign in and out of the College office in these instances.*
- 3.2 *Parents who wish to allow their son/daughter to arrive in time for classes in Period 2 or leave at the start of Period 6 if they have a Self-Determined Learning period in this time are required to complete a permission note which is distributed by the Year 13 Dean (or Year 12 Dean for applicable Year 12 students).*
- 3.3 *Students arriving at school for Period 2 must present to their class on time. After this time students will be deemed late to school. If a student is late twice, they **will** have their Period 1 and Period 6 privileges revoked.*
- 3.4 *Students who do not maintain an acceptable level of behaviour or application during Self-Determined Learning periods **will** have their Period 1 or Period 6 privileges revoked. This decision is at the sole discretion of the Year 13 Dean (or Year 12 Dean for applicable Year 12 students).*