

**Call 111 if you observe someone tagging. Give as many details as you can of the location and offender. If your property is tagged report it to your local council or Police.**

The New Zealand Police Youth Education Service

# Tag Free Kiwi

Information for Parents and Caregivers

 New Zealand Police  
New Zealand Government Auckland region graffiti free project

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## Information for Parents and Caregivers

The Police and your local council are working together to help reduce graffiti vandalism in your community. **Tag Free Kiwi** is an education programme for intermediate and secondary students, to help them develop pride and respect for themselves and their community.

## A Definition

*Graffiti vandalism is the defacing, damaging or destroying of private or public property (including buildings, structures, roads, trees, property or other thing) by writing, drawing, painting, spraying or etching on it, or otherwise marking it, without permission of the owners.*

## Graffiti vandalism

- makes the community look uncared for
- gives the appearance of an increase in the crime rate
- makes people fearful for their safety
- costs a lot of money to remove
- devalues property
- diverts money from areas where it could be better used
- shows lack of respect for the community

## Graffiti vandalism is a crime

The law says:

- If your child or young person is caught tagging you might end up paying the fine or paying to have any damage fixed, which could cost thousands of dollars.
- If your child or young person is caught with things that could be used to tag, such as spray paint, and they can't give a good reason why they have them, they could be fined or made to do community service.
- If your child or young person is caught tagging they could get a community service, a fine or even jail.
- The more tagging done then the bigger the penalty.

## What are some signs that your child or young person might be a graffiti vandal?

- » Tags drawn on own possessions such as books and clothing.
- » Similar markings are found in your local community.
- » Carries things that could be used for graffiti such as spray paint, shoe polish, permanent markers, items used to scratch glass, acid, stencils.
- » Has pictures, posters and photos of graffiti and publications about graffiti.

- » Sneaks out at night.
- » Has paint or felt pen on clothes, shoes or skin.
- » Visits graffiti sites on the Internet.
- » Boasts about tagging on their own social networking site, like Bebo.
- » Goes round with people who are taggers.
- » Uses graffiti slang and hand signs.
- » Has a nickname that only his friends use.
- » Goes out at night wearing concealing clothes.

## What can you do if you think your child or young person might be tagging?

- » Talk to them about some of the consequences for them and you if they get caught.
- » Discuss how tagging affects the victims, other people in the community and how much it costs to fix.
- » Ask your local Youth Aid Officer or Community Constable to talk to your child or young person.
- » Contact the school counsellor.
- » Try to get your child or young person involved in out of school activities such as sport.
- » Help your child or young person use their creative abilities in positive legitimate ways.