

Use of Potting Mix in the School Garden – Information Sheet for Parents

All children in the Wakari School Garden Group will, from time to time, be working with potting mix and other composting materials. These materials can be potentially harmful when not handled according to safety regulations. If used unsafely there is a potential risk of contracting Legionnaire's disease from those materials through contact with the compost particles.

The garden group therefore ensures that:

- Potting mix is only used as part of outdoor activities to ensure adequate ventilation.
- We don't use potting mix on windy days to minimise inhalation of airborne particles.
- An adult first opens the potting mix and dampens it before use.
- All children wear gardening gloves and are closely supervised in their use of the potting mix.
- We provide hand washing facilities and ensure all children have well cleaned hands before returning to class.

However, if any parents have additional questions or concerns or their child has asthma, other respiratory conditions or they are chemically sensitive, please feel free to contact us.

You can write to gardens@wakari.school.nz, speak with Mrs Logie or Mrs Bond or ring 467 5323.