

WAITUNA WEST SCHOOL CHARTER 2017-2020



Mission Statement

“Not for school but for life we are learning”.

Waituna West School
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School MOE ID No. 2475

School Description

Waituna West School is situated in a picturesque valley 27 km's inland from Feilding and was opened in 1895. Since then a number of local smaller schools have merged into Waituna West School, providing a wider catchment of pupils. The school has a decile rating of 6 and an anticipated roll of 55 (as at 1st March 2016). Our roll is currently bottom heavy with 16 new enrolments due to start at our school in the 2017 school year. We are predominantly European with approximately 8% Maori students.

We are a full primary school and most eligible students in our catchment attend our school. Our students generally leave us at the end of year 8 to attend Feilding High School.

Our Full Primary School offers many features:

- Currently on a year 3 year ERO review cycle. Our last review was in July 2014.
- Fantastic support from a committed and fun community.
- An on-site Playcentre with a roll of approximately 25 children and enthusiastic, motivated parents.
- Three well resourced classrooms (Provisional Staffing in September 2016 was 3.68 FTTE).
- A modern and well-resourced library.
- Access to ultra-fast broadband via N4L. The school installed new wireless access points in 2015, these cover the entire school area and include the Playcentre. In 2016, the school began migration from server storage to Google Cloud.
- Lunchtime activity groups – gardening, bee keeping, ukulele, cooking, and farming (pigs and sheep).
- Part of the Oroua cluster of schools (Kiwitea, Kimbolton, Apiti, Waituna West).
- Part of the newly formed Feilding Community of Learning (CoL). The achievement challenge for this is still in development.
- Taking part in a writing development PLD with the Oroua schools in 2017.
- Access to specialist sports coaching (accessible via Kiwi Sport funding).
- Access to piano lessons and sports coaching.
- A history of stable and experienced staffing.
- 2 “far reaching” bus runs.
- An all-weather playing surface.
- 12 acres of land including our school paddocks.



Room 4 Art

School Vision

As a school and community we realise how important school is in the life of our children. We want our children to be adaptable, resilient and resourceful in a future world. We aim to work together as a community and our mission statement is:

“Not for school but for life we are learning”



Procedural Information

Waituna West School will lodge a copy of the Charter with the Wanganui office of the Ministry of Education by the end of February each year. This charter will include the schools annual achievement targets. The schools Annual Report (including summative data relating to the National Standards) will be lodged with the MOE each year at the same time.

Supporting Documents –available on request at the school office.

Waituna West School Budget 2017

Waituna West School 10 year Property Plan (renewed November 2013)

Waituna West School Curriculum Delivery Plan (reviewed in 2017)

Waituna West School Self Review Policy

Waituna West School 2017 Annual Plan

Waituna West School 2017-2020 Strategic Plan (reviewed annually)

Waituna West School Policies and Procedures (reviewed annually)

Consultation

Waituna West School will consult with its community, including its Maori community, on a regular basis as part of the school's self review. This consultation process will take a variety of forms including newsletters, questionnaires, meetings and informal gatherings.

The school recognises that learning is enhanced when a partnership is established between the school and its community and that all of the community contributes to the values, traditions and heritage of Waituna West.

Values

At Waituna West School we believe students should:

- Be prepared to take risks.
- Be responsible for themselves and their learning.
- Be friendly.
- Be honest.
- Value education.
- Show respect/tolerance of others.
- Be environmentally aware.
- Foster a love of learning.
- Work co-operatively with others.
- Be problem solvers.
- Experience a well-rounded education.
- Have special needs/abilities met.
- Be creative.
- Be proud of themselves, their achievements and their school.

At Waituna West School we believe staff will demonstrate these values by:

- Fostering enthusiasm.
- Preparing children for secondary school.
- Openly communicating with pupils and parents.
- Being approachable.
- Motivating students to achieve their best.
- Clearly identifying student needs and involving parents in developing strategies to meet these needs.
- Developing professionally and personally.
- Accessing quality resources and utilising physical and human resources from the wider community where possible.
- Being fair and consistent and always having a smile.

At Waituna West School we believe that the community may show their support of the school by:

- Being supportive of the school eg. attending meetings, assemblies and prize giving's.
- Promoting the school in the wider school community.
- Supporting and assisting in school and community days.

- Continuing to develop the school as a nucleus of the community.
- Understanding and following procedures.
- Valuing education.
- Be willing to accept change.

National Educational Priorities

Success for all

All students at Waituna West School have opportunities for success.

Our planning is based on the aims and objectives of the NZ curriculum and we cater appropriately for students in a multi-level setting. We resource our school with the materials, equipment and personnel the students need.

We cater for a diversity of learning styles and incorporate a variety of teaching approaches into our programmes. We celebrate success and offer individualised instruction to meet individual needs in our school. We provide a wide, fun and exciting range of learning experiences both in and outside the classroom.



Junior children at the start of the Cross Country

A Safe Learning Environment

Waituna West School provides a safe and stimulating learning environment for all of its students. The Board of Trustees and staff ensure that the physical surroundings are maintained and enhanced. Potential hazards are identified and eliminated.

We model and expect a school climate of respect, care and tolerance. We take special pride in nurturing the family atmosphere of our small school. We encourage interaction between all children of the school regardless of age and background.

2017 will see the continued use of houses. These have been created to build a sense of competition and pride amongst the students as well as continuing to foster the peer support values that are the core of the Waituna West School culture.

Our staff regularly reviews whether our social and physical environment suits the needs of students and we modify and seek assistance as required. Regular safety checks (as per Argest scheduling requirements) are conducted. The Board of Trustees organises and coordinates regular school working bees.

Student Achievement Information

Student achievement information is gathered regularly to assist us to identify “next steps” and to plan future teaching and learning programmes to meet the needs of all of our students. We use both standardised and diagnostic tools as well as regular unit assessment against the achievement objectives of the NZ curriculum, teacher observation and anecdotal evidence. Individual and school wide records are kept which demonstrate student progress and achievement over time.

Pupil’s work samples are collected and compared to exemplars to help give teachers a clear understanding of children’s standards of work.

Improving Outcomes for Students at Risk

Students identified as being at risk or who have special learning needs, either accelerate or remedial, are supported in a range of ways in our school. We offer individual help involving teacher, teacher aide and volunteers.

In 2017 the BOT will continue to fund maximum administration hours so that the Principal can teach 3 days per week. This will ensure a minimum amount of disruptions to classroom teaching and learning programmes.

In 2017, the Waituna West School Board of Trustees is proposing to employ a fourth teacher for 5 mornings a week from term 3. This teacher will be funded out of reserved funds, currently invested, and will assist with the transition to school for the 16 projected new enrolments.

Improving Literacy and Numeracy

The improvement of literacy and numeracy is given high priority in our school and remains an area of annual student development. To meet the requirements of National Standards, priority will be given to literacy and numeracy across years 1-8.

The Board has resourced the school well for literacy and numeracy. Staff continue to source and introduce high quality resources from Board funds.

We still give priority to maintaining and developing a well-stocked library and offer programmes using a specialised teacher to develop library and research skills. The school magazine is a quality publication that is worked on throughout the year by our magazine writers. The adult/student exchange will continue again in 2017 commencing in term 2.

Waituna West School will continue to endeavour to develop the children's ability to effectively use Information Technology equipment. The school has been part of an Oroua "cluster wide" Professional Development programme in 2016. The focus of this is the use of digital technologies in the classroom. The BOT and Home and School purchased 20 new chrome books throughout the year and will purchase more in 2017.

In 2017, Waituna West School will be part of two professional development opportunities. The Oroua Cluster has applied for funding to focus on engaging students in writing and spelling. We are also working with the Feilding Community of Learning. The achievement challenge for this is yet to be determined.

Classrooms are environments that are rich in print and children's displays are a feature in all classes as well as school foyer.

Improving Maori Outcomes

We monitor the performance of our Maori students and have action plans in place to ensure that their needs are met. The Waituna West School BOT will consider any requests for Te Reo in light of current resourcing and needs.

The school continues to attempt to build relationships with local iwi to develop a school kawa. The school developed a good (if slightly expensive) relationship with BA productions – Wanganui in 2015 to build knowledge of Tikanga, Te Reo and kawa. This learning was used in a real life context on the whole school trip around the East Cape in September 2015. This initiative helped us ensure the cultural needs of our students (Maori and non-Maori) are being met.

Waituna West School will recognise the cultural diversity of New Zealand by integrating Taha Maori into curriculum areas. Our curriculum will encourage students to understand and respect the different cultures that make up New Zealand society and to be familiar with basic greetings, phrases and instructions. The school will positively demonstrate that all cultural groups are valued and respected and that racial slurs or discrimination will not be tolerated. Guidelines detailed in Ka Hikitia will be used.



Launching the Room 4 Hot Air Balloons

Providing Career Guidance

Years 7 and 8 children are provided with career guidance in the context of unit studies where applicable. They are also encouraged to access the websites pertinent to this.

We have high aspirations for Waituna West School children and constantly encourage them to aim high for tertiary education and to have a strong belief in their self worth and abilities for the future.

Ex-Waituna West pupils who succeed at College and Tertiary are acknowledged at school prize giving ceremonies. Our adult/student writing exchange further build links between school and community and expose our students and young writers to a range of occupations and careers.

Reporting

There will be further review of our reporting systems in 2017. Our school report template and portfolio contents will be modified and refined as a result of teacher/parent discussion. New staffing(entitlements), new families, student abilities/needs and to a lesser degree National Standards, mean our reporting techniques are constantly changing.

All reporting to parents regarding individual student achievement and progress is via student portfolios in terms 1 and 3 and written reports with National Standards comparisons (OTJ's) in terms 2 and 4. Assessment descriptions are contained in the portfolios and written reports so that parents can easily see what the results and comments mean.

Waituna West School has an open door policy and communication between parents and staff is honest, open and regular. It is the expectation of the school that parents will make appointments throughout the year to discuss their child's progress. This has not worked as well as we had anticipated and some thought is currently being given to returning to our previous "twice yearly" interviews.

Newsletters are sent home fortnightly and anecdotal comments are regular in the Home and School Books. Reports to the Board of Trustees outline student achievement and progress as a whole.



Swan Egging on the Senior Class Camp to the Chatham Islands

Student Achievement Targets 2017

National Standards have seen an ongoing review of our data gathering and the development of analysis and “what next” questions. Our 2016 student targets may be modified once the PAT maths, Reading and STAR test results have been analysed.

National Standards Target 2017

It remains a goal of our school for all children to achieve at or above in the National standards Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

5/50(at the end of the 2016 school year) will make accelerated progress and achieve “at” by the end of the 2017 school year in Reading.

8/50(at the end of the 2016 school year) will make accelerated progress and achieve “at” by the end of the 2017 school year in Writing.

9/50(at the end of the 2016 school year) will make accelerated progress and achieve “at” by the end of the 2017 school year in Mathematics.

This target will include European and Maori children alike. Differentiation will be made between these two groups during BOT and at end of year reporting.

All of these targets are based on the OTJ’s as a result of data gathered throughout 2016 and are collated in our annual National Standards summary. These targets are confirmed at the start of 2017.

Target

Based on 2016 data (pre 2017 standardised testing of existing and new students), there are still children identified as being at risk of underachieving. These numbers and students will be confirmed in March 2017 and programmes/outside agencies, extra teacher or aide hours will be allocated and adopted.

Time Frame - throughout the 2017 school year. Reviewed each term during data sharing meetings.



Waituna West winning the senior teams event at the Interschool triathlon

Waituna West School:
Programme of Self Review

Every year, all policies and procedures will be reviewed and modified.

- **NAG 1 Curriculum**
- **NAG 2 Self Review**
- **NAG 3 Personnel**
- **NAG 4 Property & Finance**
- **NAG 5 Health & Safety**
- **NAG 6 Legislation**

Term 4

- Budget for following year.
- Review Asset Register.
- Job Descriptions, Performance Agreements and Appraisal documentation completed.
- Staff Development Plan for the following year.



Waiting for aid to arrive after "Cyclone Jenna"

Strategic Planning

Waituna West School will review the strategic planning section of the charter on an annual basis. Each NAG will be adjusted as required. The BOT has decided that because of roll and staffing reduction over the past three years, a 3-5 year strategic plan would be futile.

The Board of Trustees is committed to meeting the requirements of the Education Act and will use relevant resources(eg. Ka Hikitia, Success for All - every school, every child) where necessary.

Waituna West School

Ahakoā iti, he pounamu

Although it is small, it is of greenstone



Docking the school farm lambs