

Information for families



MAKING REAL CHOICES
Hanga kōwhiringa tūturu

170 Burwood Road, Christchurch 8083, phone: 03 383 2736
e-mail: office@waitakiri.school.nz
website: www.waitakiri.school.nz

IMPORTANT MESSAGE:

We communicate via text message & the FlexiBuzz app to parents

Latest updates, reminders, cancellations and urgent safety messages are just a text or app away.

These are free for you. It is imperative that you sign up for these texts and the FlexiBuzz app as these are two of our main ways of communicating to parents.

1. To sign up send the text message:

Follow WaitakiriSchool to **8987** from your phone.

Unfortunately Vodafone do not support the text service, so if you are a Vodafone customer, please ask a fellow parent or family member to receive the texts and forward them onto you.

2. To sign up for the FlexiBuzz app, follow these instructions:

Stay in touch with FlexiBuzz

STEP 01 Sign up for FlexiBuzz and then login

Search "FlexiBuzz" in your app store. Go to web.flexibuzz.com and click "Sign Up".

STEP 02 Connect to us

Select the 'Search' icon and type in our name. Select us from the results.

STEP 03 Select your communication groups

Click the 'Add' icon beside the communication groups that apply to you.

STEP 04 Get started

Click the 'Home' icon to view our recent posts.

For further information or assistance please visit our website www.flexibuzz.com or email us via support@flexibuzz.com.

FlexiBuzz

Please ensure you sign up for both of these communication tools before your child starts school.

Thank you 😊

A – Z of Waitākiri School

Absences

When a child is going to be absent from school parents are asked to either

- telephone the school on 383 2736 **before** 8.55 a.m.
- send a message via the FlexiBuzz app
- send an email to: absences@waitakiri.school.nz
- text 027 202 3543 – with the child's name, room number and reason for absence

A message can be left on the school's answer phone 24 hours a day. The school will make contact with home if a child is unaccounted for.

Please make sure we have your current home, work and cellphone numbers and that these, along with your home address, are kept up to date.

Children absent for more than 3 weeks at one time are required to be removed from the school roll unless there is written verification of a return to school date and an explanation for non-attendance e.g. medical certificate or travel details. When there are patterns of unjustified absence or lateness, this will be followed up with their parents/caregivers by the Deputy Principal or Principal.

Under the Education Act 1989, Principal's approval is required for parents to take children out of school for 3 days or more. Please request this in writing by sending an e-mail to office@waitakiri.school.nz

Behaviour Management

We believe in learning together in a respectful environment. The school has a structured, positive approach to learning, both in the classroom and in the playground.

Waitākiri School responds to inappropriate behaviour at school with "Mucked up, Own up, Put it right, Move on". This process allows our children to have a consistent response from staff when they make poor decisions or 'muck up'. It is consistent with the understanding that it is the behaviour we want to change (and we want the child to change) so rather than labelling the child we are specific about how they have mucked up and then guide them through the steps so that they can move on.

Feel free to use the same language at home if it helps your child to take responsibility for his/her behaviour.

Cellphones at school

Children that bring their cellphone to school need to hand them into their teacher at 8.55am to be kept secure until 3pm. This is to ensure that children ask a teacher before contacting parents and to reduce the risk of any inappropriate use.

Change of details

It is essential that the school is notified immediately of any change of address, parents' place of work and/or telephone numbers. This also applies to emergency or additional contact numbers. Please email office@waitakiri.school.nz

CHOICE Room

This is our community room where parents can borrow parenting books, use the computer to look at the school website and book 3Way Learning Conferences, and talk with other parents before and after school. There are some toys for pre-schoolers to play with while parents wait.

At lunchtimes from 1pm all children are welcome in the CHOICE room to play and draw. This is a popular place for children of all ages. During the school day year 5 and 6 children can learn independently in the CHOICE room.

Adjoining the CHOICE room is the CHOICE Café. You can purchase coffee, hot chocolates, fluffies, milkshakes, etc. here before school. Line up outside the window to place your order. Concession cards are available. The café is staffed by a trained barista and supported by parent volunteers. Children are asked to stay outside the Learning Studios with their hot drinks.

Communication

We communicate via text message and the FlexiBuzz app to parents

Latest updates, reminders, cancellations and urgent safety messages are just a text or app away. These are free for us and for you and it is imperative that you sign up for these texts and app, as these are our main source of messages to parents. Please follow the instructions on the 2nd page of this information booklet prior to your child starting school.

You can also follow us on facebook and twitter via our website. You do not need to be signed up to facebook or twitter to access this.

Community Dental Care

The Community Dental Care facilities are located at Aranui High School, Shortland Street, Aranui. The Dental Care van comes to Waitākiri School periodically. If your child requires dental care please phone 0800 846 983 to make an appointment.

Dogs at school

Dogs are not permitted to be on the school grounds before, during or after school. We have a specially made “dog park” on Burwood Road, between the pedestrian crossing and front gate. If you bring your dog to school please park them here.

Donations

We request donations from families each year. Donations are tax deductible. Children starting school during the year pay a reduced amount. An invoice will be sent to families regarding this payment.

Your support by paying the donation is crucial as we endeavour to provide material and equipment, which is beneficial for all children throughout the school. Your contribution will enable us to maintain activities greater than the government grants are intended for. Donations will assist with additional resources to enhance learning programmes, extension and special needs programmes.

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Annual donation: | One child | \$80.00 |
| | Two or more children | \$100.00 |

We are conscious that lump sum payments can be a budget problem with some families. We operate a process where you can use a direct credit from your bank account for a set amount each week or fortnight or if you prefer in termly instalments. The parents who are using this service find it works well for them. If you are interested, please ask at the office.

If you wish to make a payment via internet banking, our bank account number is 03 1700 0622075 025. State your child's family name and 'donation'.

EnviroSchool

Waitākiri is a Silver Enviroschool

Projects undertaken by Enviroschools have both environmental and educational outcomes that benefit the school and the wider community. By learning together in practical ways sustainability becomes an integral part of what we do throughout our schools and communities. Caring for our place and the whole planet becomes a living curriculum where we can be catalysts for change.

Gifted & Talented Learners

The Gifted & Talented Programme ensures that those who have particular gifts and talents have their learning needs met and are challenged. Look under "Our Learning" on our school website for further information.

Health Matters

Children who are not well in the night or before school **should not** be sent to school. We do not have staff or facilities to care for sick children. When children become ill or are injured during the school day, parents are contacted and are asked to take the child home or to their doctor. If your child has been vomiting or had diarrhoea, they need to be away from school for **48 hours** from the time of their last symptom.

In the case of serious accidents, such as broken limbs, we try to contact parents urgently. We use the Ambulance Service to assist with first aid if needed. Our staff are trained in essential first aid.

If your child suffers from any medical condition please advise the school office so we can work out a procedure to deal with any situation that may arise.

If your child needs to take medication during the day, this will be administered at the office. If medication is to be administered, parents MUST sign an authorisation form at the office before medication can be given. Inhalers also need to be kept at the office and will be administered as per instruction from parents. While all care will be taken in administering medication and first aid, the final responsibility is the parents.

Health Nurse

Waitākiri School works alongside our local Public Health Nurse, Sue Brown, located at Burwood Hospital. Parents and caregivers can contact Sue or the health team for any health matters on 383 6877. There is a health information brochure with this enrolment pack.

Hearing & Vision Tester

A Hearing & Vision tester employed by Canterbury District Health Board regularly visits school to test the hearing and vision of children. If you would like to find out more about this, or ask for your child to be added to the list when they next visit, please contact the school office.

Home Learning

Home Learning will consist of reading for all children and basic sight words (called fast words) for juniors, and basic facts for Year 2 – 6. In addition, students from Year 4, 5 and 6 are encouraged to take up the Waitākiri REAL Challenges (see **REAL Challenges**).

Intermediate School Education

Waitākiri School is a contributing school for Chisnallwood, Shirley & Heaton Intermediate Schools. Year 6 children and their parents will be provided with information on intermediate schools prior to enrolment time.

Late arrivals to school

Children who arrive late to school (after the 8.55am music) need to report to the office and collect a late slip and give an explanation for their lateness before going to their Learning Studio. When there are patterns of children arriving late, this will be followed up with parents/caregivers by the Deputy Principal or Principal.

Learning Assistant Support

The school uses a considerable amount of its operational grant to provide in class support for children. This Learning Assistant support is allocated according to need. Programmes are for a finite period of time and have measurable outcomes.

Learning Outside The Classroom (LOTCL)

Teachers take classes on visits to extend understanding and language and to educate children in use of the outdoors for personal development.

It is a requirement that all private motor vehicles used for the transportation of pupils have a current WOF, registration and shoulder seat belts for each pupil. Buses are chartered when necessary. Children under 8 years must sit in an approved booster seat.

Parents who assist with supervision on class trips are asked to not bring preschoolers. The adult:child ratio is applied to achieve safe management of the children in groups and so children can be focused on the activities to achieve the aims of the trip. School camps are included in the senior school programme.

Learning Teams

We have six learning teams – Windsor, Burwood, Ōtākaro, Travis, Ruru and Korimako. The learning teams are under the leadership of a team leader. Photos of staff in each learning team, along with their email address, can be found under "Our Team" on the school website.

Leaving the school grounds

If parents come to take children from school between 8.55am and 3pm, they must advise the home group teacher and sign out at the office via VisTab. Pupils are not permitted to leave the school grounds during the school day for any reason without permission from a teacher. Children are not allowed to enter neighbour's properties to collect balls or to climb over any fences backing onto the school.

Library

Our well-resourced library is open during the day, including lunchtime, for children to borrow books, read and do research. Our library is staffed by an experienced librarian who is supported by student librarians.

Windsor and Burwood children are able to borrow two books at a time. These are issued for two weeks. All other children can have five books issue for four weeks. It is compulsory for every child to use a library bag to carry books to and from school. These can be purchased at the school office or supplied from home. Lost or damaged books are charged for at replacement cost. There is no charge for overdue books, however further books are not issued until they are returned.

Lost Property

There is a lost property collection point in the CHOICE Room. We cannot stress enough that uniform and belongings must be named. Unclaimed and un-named clothing will be used as needed by the school at the end of each term.

Lost property will be returned to its owner if it is named.

Lunch Service - There are two lunch options:

Subway on Mondays

Subway order forms are available from the CHOICE Room or on the school website and must be returned to the drop-box outside the office with full payment and correct money before 9am Monday for delivery of Subway that day. This is a cash only service. Subway will be delivered to the school by 12.30pm on a Monday and children collect their lunch from the office.

Sushi on Thursdays

Sushi order forms are available from the CHOICE Room or on the school website and must be returned to the drop-box outside the office with full payment and correct money before 9am Wednesday (the day before sushi). This is a cash only service. Sushi will be delivered to the school by 12.30pm on a Thursday and children collect their lunch from the office.

New entrant children

A welcome meeting (Powhiri) for parents and children will generally be held just prior to the first child in their home room starting school. This meeting will introduce parents to the home group teacher, Deputy Principals and Principal. Suggestions for preparing to start school and the class programme will be outlined.

Parents will be given a letter regarding school visit dates for their child. Parents leave their children for the visits. Most children like to wear their school uniform; however this is not compulsory for the visits.

Newsletter

A school newsletter is emailed to parents and caregivers Wednesday fortnightly and is also available to view on the school website. Take the time to read important information about school events each week. Please ensure we have your correct e-mail address. If you do not have access to the internet, please let your child's teacher know and we will send a paper copy home. A copy is also available to read in the CHOICE room.

OSCAR (Out of School Care)

Enrolment forms are available from the CHOICE room, at OSCAR or email the administrator Amanda Murray at amanda.murray@waitakiri.school.nz. For bookings and further information please also contact Amanda by email or on 027 655 8104.

Morning OSCAR operates from 7.30am – 8.30am, and afternoon OSCAR operates from 3.00pm – 6.00pm. OSCAR is Child, Youth and Family approved which means parents can access the Work and Income OSCAR Subsidy. For WINZ queries please contact Amanda. This service is operated on a pre-paid scheme.

OSCAR encourages internet banking. The OSCAR bank account number is:

03 1700 0622075 026. When making a payment online please state your child's name and 'OSCAR'.

There is also an OSCAR school holiday programme. Prior to the holidays an information and booking brochure will be available. Please ask for this at OSCAR in Learning Studio 8. Activities include reading, board games, playground and planned activities. Holiday care runs for eleven weeks of the year.

Pack In, Pack Out (lunch & morning tea)

As Waitākiri School is an environmentally friendly school we expect **all** children and adults to take home their food rubbish. We call this “**Pack In, Pack out.**”

We encourage all children to have “Nood Food”. That is, food not wrapped in gladwrap or packets. If your child brings food wrappers to school they will come home in their lunch box along with any food scraps and empty yoghurt pottles. We hope this will enable you to see just what your child is eating.

We suggest you buy the large containers of yoghurt and put a small amount into a container with a screw lid if you wish your child to have yoghurt for lunch, and likewise for items like chips, popcorn, crackers. Small resealable bags are also ideal and can be used time and time again.

We appreciate your support as we work towards a sustainable environment and also thank Fresh Choice Parklands for their donation of eco-friendly lunchboxes to our new entrants.

Parent Concerns

Our aim is to work co-operatively to resolve any problem.

If you have a concern please follow the following steps.

1. Please arrange a discussion with the home group teacher. Explain clearly the concerns felt and discuss how these concerns could be overcome. Arrange a follow-up meeting at a later date to review progress, if necessary.
2. If a concern is still felt please make an appointment with:

Deputy Principal
Deputy Principal

Mrs Jacqui Malham
Miss Dianna Reynolds

The concern and steps taken will be discussed further with the teacher involved.

3. If you feel the matter has not been resolved, please make an appointment with the Principals PA to meet with the Principal, who will also check all earlier action taken and work with all parties concerned to reach a satisfactory solution.

Parking at school

NO parking is permitted on the school grounds, on the yellow lines outside school, over driveways or on any bus stops. Please adhere to the parking restrictions as the City Council and Police monitor these parking areas on a regular basis. Please also be considerate to our neighbours when parking at school.

Drop Off Zone

At the front of school we encourage use of the 3 minute drop off zone/pickup zone between the hours of 8.15am – 8.55am and 2.30pm – 3.30pm, Monday to Friday. This is very successful and convenient for parents who do not need to come into the school. If you need to come into the school and stay longer than 3 minutes we ask that you **DO NOT PARK** within the drop-off zone. The City Council and Police regularly monitor this area and issue tickets to offending vehicles.

Payment for activities

To enhance the learning opportunities for your child, teachers plan experiences and activities that may include performing artists (story tellers, dancers and musicians), visits to places beyond the school (see LOTC) or costs for specialist instructors (such as Beach Education).

The costs for these activities are to be met by parents. An invoice for payment for activities is emailed home once a term. Payment can be made in one lump sum, by direct credit or automatic payment. Many families pay a weekly or fortnightly sum (\$2 - \$10) which covers the annual activities. Parents who use this process find it an effective way of managing payment. You can contact the school office during school hours for a balance of your account.

EFTPOS facilities are available at the office. We also encourage internet banking. The school bank account number is: 03 1700 0622075 025. When making a payment online please state your child's name and what the payment is for. Cash or cheque payments can also be made into the drop box outside the school office.

Placement of students at the beginning of the year

Guidelines:

1. In November, after consultation with teachers, the Senior Leadership Team draw up home groups for the following year.
2. A range of criteria including age, intellectual, emotional and social development and positive or negative peer relationships will be considered. We aim to ensure children are placed with at least one good friend, when home groups are formed from one year to the next.
3. No changes will be undertaken during the year unless there are extraordinary circumstances and parents and staff both agree on the change.

Policies & Procedures

To view our full Policies and Procedures look under "General Information" on the school website. We use School Docs. As policies are updated parents and staff are notified to view, and if required, comment on them. This notification is sent through our school newsletter.

Privacy Act

All information relating to families and pupils of Waitākiri School is confidential under the Privacy Act. No information will be given to other agencies without permission of the persons concerned.

Privacy and Information Technology

During your child's time at Waitākiri School, they will be involved in activities where children may be included in photographs and videos, as well as being involved in activities using e-mail and the internet.

- **E-mail:** Year 5 & 6 students are issued a managed school email address for learning use only.
- **Internet:** Our system is set up to block unsuitable sites. However, there is always potential for such protection to not be fool proof. A staff member is present when children are using the internet.
- **Publication of school activities:** Children's learning, photographs of children or movies may appear on our school website, facebook and in articles in the school newsletter. Some will be on secure websites and others will be publicly available.
- **Newspaper Articles:** Children's photographs and full names may be published in the paper.

You will be asked to sign and return a Cybersafety Use Agreement that will be in force while your child is in Year 1 – 3, and then again in Year 4 – 6. If you have any concerns regarding the above, please advise the school office.

Promotion through the school

The Ministry of Education's policy on the classification of pupils in New Zealand is one of social promotion – children moving through the school with pupils of the same age. Most Year 1 children with birthdays from January – end April will be promoted to Year 2 at the start of the following year. Generally at the start of each subsequent year the child will move to the next year level.

PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

Waitākiri School has an active parent/caregiver group who have an interest in helping the Principal, teachers and the Board of Trustees. They support the school financially by fundraising and with tasks that support running the school. The group meets once a month. Please look out for dates of meetings in our newsletters and on our website calendar. If you would like to know more about the committee, please email waitakirischoolpta@gmail.com.

REAL Challenges

Year 4, 5 and 6 are encouraged to take up the Waitākiri REAL Challenges. These challenges include learning opportunities in the arts, physical activities, numeracy and literacy, service to others and the community, and service in school.

Reading Recovery

We fund specially trained teachers to provide Reading Recovery. It is an intensive reading and writing programme provided to particularly low progress children, identified through screening tests of 6 year olds. Parents will be contacted if their child is selected for Reading Recovery.

Reporting to parents

Each child receives two written reports each year. Six weeks after a new entrant child starts school, teachers contact parents/caregivers to organise a time to meet and discuss the child's start at school and to share learning goals and next steps. A written report is discussed with parents at the time of the learning conferences.

Children in years 1–3 receive a written report at the end of the term in which the anniversary of their school start date occurs, i.e. one year, two years, and three years after their start date. This report shows their achievement against the national standards. At six months, 18 months, and 30 months, they receive a progress report which shows their progress towards the relevant standards.

Students in year 4 and above receive their reports mid-year and end of year, regardless of their anniversary dates.

Scholastic Bookclub NZ Ltd

During the year children take home an order form for books supplied by Scholastic N.Z. Ltd. If you wish to order, send the money and order form in a named envelope to the drop box outside the office by the due date. Cheques are made to Scholastic NZ Ltd.

School banking

Each Friday morning, in the CHOICE room, ANZ bank visit the school to collect school banking from students. Two Student Councillors are trained to help with the banking. Further information regarding banking is included in this information pack.

School photos

Each year class and individual photos are taken in Term 1 by Heritage Photographic Studios. For new entrant children starting after March (or for new entrant classes still filling up) the photo is delayed until the fourth term. Every second year family photos are taken.

Sending payments to school

When sending a payment with your children please place in the drop-box outside the school office. If you send cash to school, please have money in a sealed envelope with the following information:

- your child's name
- home-group
- what the payment is for

Please ensure you include the correct money. All money will be applied to your account, no change can be given.

Shady School

Waitākiri School has a Shady School Policy to try to ensure that while children are attending school they are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun, which can lead to serious skin cancer in later life. The policy is implemented during Terms 1 and 4. As part of the general skin protection strategies sunscreen is provided in learning studios for children to use (they need to be able to put this on themselves) and it is compulsory for children to wear hats which protect the face, neck and ears when they are outside (i.e. break, lunch, sport, excursions and outdoor activities). Children will need to sit in a designated shade area if they do not have a hat.

Smokefree school

The Smokefree Environments Amendment Act 2003, directs that all buildings and grounds of Waitākiri School are smokefree 24 hours a day, seven days a week (with no exemptions). The Act applies to anyone on the school grounds including staff, children, visiting parents and caregivers, contractors and people hiring or using the school facilities outside of school hours.

Specialist Services

Specialist services available through the school include: Public Health Nurse, Hearing & Vision Tester, Community Dental, Speech/Language Therapist, Child and Family Guidance, Resource Teacher Learning and Behaviour (RTLb), Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy, STAND. Usually the school initiates contact with the above services. However, you are welcome to make enquiries to the Principal or Deputy Principals, if you consider referrals to any of the above are required for your child.

Sport

Children at Waitākiri School have the option to participate in a wide variety of sports. Depending on the interest and the age of children and availability of coaches and managers, the following sports may be offered. As events start at a different time each year it is important that parents/caregivers and children read the newsletter for information of sign up notices.

Winter Terms 2 and 3

Hagley Sport – Netball, Soccer, Hockey and Rugby
Rugby League
Rugby Fun Day
Future Ferns Netball

School, Zone and Canterbury Cross Country
Basketball
Jump Jam
Dance Crew

Summer Terms 1 and 4

School, Zone and Canterbury Athletics
Hagley Sport– Volleyball, Touch Rugby and Teeball
Rawhiti Touch Rugby
Minijammers Basketball
Cricket
Jammers Basketball
School, Zone and Canterbury Swimming
School, Zone and Canterbury Athletics
Triathlon
Ride 'n' Stride (Junior Duathlon)
Jump Jam
Dance Crew

We also promote and encourage participation in local sporting events such as Weetbix Tryathlon, McDonalds Duathlon, Summer Starter and City to Surf.

Stationery

At the start of each school year and for children who start during the year, parents purchase stationery requirements on-line through OfficeMax. This is ordered from www.myschool.co.nz. An information brochure about how to do this is included in this pack.

During the year replacement stationery requirements are available from the school office between 8.30am – 3.30pm daily. Children will be given a note from the class teacher when they require more stationery. This needs to be paid for at the time of purchase.

REAL Heroes Support room

Our REAL Heroes Support room is a place where children can go to if they are struggling to learn in their learning space; where they can go for support before school, play time and lunch time and where parents can find additional support for their children. The REAL Support room is to help children who might be struggling socially or emotionally and who are needing extra support. As children gain confidence or show that they have or are developing good friendships they will be encouraged out into the playground and into the normal play and lunch time activities.

Swimming

Children have a series of swimming lessons each year in our school pool with a qualified swimming instructor. Parents need to cover the cost of these lessons. An information letter will be sent home with your child prior to swimming.

Toys at school

Children are discouraged from bringing toys to school unless for a special purpose. The school is not responsible for the loss of children's property.

Travel to and from school

Road Patrol:

We have a Road Patrol team who are trained by the Police Education Officer and are on duty from

8.30am – 8.55am and 3.00pm – 3.15pm each day. All children approaching school who need to cross the road **MUST USE** the pedestrian crossing where there is one.

Road Safety:

Please discuss with your children about being particularly careful when crossing roads when coming to and from school. If your child scoots/walks by themselves, please teach them to look both ways before crossing any road and use the pedestrian crossing where available. Drivers please slow down and look out for children before and after school. We encourage children to do the right thing for their safety, please continue this when walking with your child.

Bicycles:

The police recommend children younger than 9 years old do not ride their bicycles to school unless accompanied by an adult. Bicycles are stored in the bicycle stands next to the swimming pool during the school day. We advise bicycle locks be used. Children and adults must walk their bicycles in the school grounds and outside of school on the footpath, especially when there are pedestrians. There are designated areas for children to use their wheels. Helmets are compulsory. All equipment should be clearly named.

Safe Cycling Training is a part of the school programme for Year 6 children, as we recognise many will be cycling to Intermediate.

Uniform

School uniform is compulsory. Children who do not wear school uniform will need to have a note from their parents explaining why. **Please ensure all items of clothing are labeled so lost items can be returned to their owner.**

Most items are unisex and can be worn summer or winter. The sun hat is a compulsory item for Terms 1 & 4. There are also winter beanies & hair scrunchies which are available to purchase from the office.

Please find information about ordering our school uniform in the brochure with this pack, and also on our school website. Ordering of the school uniform is done online. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Use of school grounds outside of school hours

Families are welcome to use the grounds and school facilities out of school hours. We recommend that children come in groups or have an adult with them. It is expected that behaviour will be sensible from all who use the school grounds.

On school days, children are expected to clear the grounds at 3.15pm and not return to the school before 5.30pm. Music will play to alert people that it is 3.15pm. If children are not collected by 3.15pm they are to come to the school office and parents will be contacted. The grounds are electronically monitored 24 hours a day.

Values

When Waitākiri School was established in 2014 the Board of Trustees and leadership team consulted with the community to find out what parents wanted for their children. The question was asked, "What are the qualities and attributes a Waitākiri School student should embody?"

The response led to the identification of the REAL CHOICES values. In 2015 we refined the values and motto of our school to:

Waitākiri School, a place of REAL Heroes!

This means children who:

Respect self, others and the environment

Encourage others

Achieve to the best of their ability, and are...

Lifelong learners

Children who display these values are REAL Heroes!

Staff planning learning experiences for children want to make sure they have *REAL Heroes* making *REAL CHOICES*. This means considering and planning for:

Community involvement where ever possible,

Hauora (well-being): learning experiences that will enhance the well-being of our children,

Oppportunity: children will be given opportunity to lead their learning and become confident, connected, actively involved lifelong learners

Innovation: children will be given the opportunity to innovate through their inquiries and research into areas of interest

Collaboration and creativity: children will be encouraged to collaborate to solve problems, inquire into their world and communicate with others, they will be encouraged to think critically, creatively and use metacognitive processes to make sense of their world

Enjoyment: children learn best when they are in a challenging and supportive learning culture- where they are enjoying learning

Sustainability: the future of our world depends on sustainable practices. Waitākiri children will be encouraged to show respect for the environment. Waitākiri School is an Enviroschool.

A school of REAL Heroes making REAL CHOICES means children will have a say in their learning. At times they will have choice about what they are learning, where they learn, who they learn with and they will be involved in decision making about how their learning space and their school is run. They will make REAL CHOICES!

We encourage our families to use the REAL Hero concept at home with their children. These drive our curriculum, culture and school development.

Visitors

ALL visitors are required to report to the school office when visiting. Visitors must sign in and out using the electronic "VisTab"

Wheels at school (bikes, scooters, skateboards, ripsticks, etc)

Children are encouraged to bring their wheels to school – scooters, skateboards or ripsticks and ride them in the designated areas ONLY. Designated areas are the alps, scooter track and the back courts. Anyone with wheels is to walk their wheels to the storage areas. ***If a child is found to be riding their wheels anywhere other than the designated area, their wheels will be taken to the office for the day and they can collect them after school.*** All children on wheels (ripsticks, scooters, skateboards, unicycles, etc.) will be required to wear helmets at school when riding in the designated areas. This is for the safety of our children. We also recommend that parents require their children to wear helmets when going to and from school. Additional protective clothing such as knee, elbow and wrist pads are encouraged but optional. Please name all equipment.

If you have any questions, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to you and your child being a member of our school community.