

Whangamata Area School

Charter 2013-2015

Our school community

Whangamata Area School is a co-educational school which offers a unique educational opportunity with schooling from Year 1 through to Year 13. With a roll of approximately 350 students our school is large enough to have the advantages of a range of specialist teachers and facilities, yet small enough to retain the flexibility and pastoral support individual students need. We are able to offer small class sizes throughout the school with an average of 30-45 pupils at most year levels. Approximately 33% of our roll identify as Maori. Whangamata Area School has a family atmosphere, a result of so many families completing their entire schooling with us.

Whangamata Area School has a clear focus of student achievement and works with its core KORU values – Knowledge, organisation, respect and unity. The school prides itself on offering excellent opportunities for academic success. We have a very effective staff offering the New Zealand National Curriculum. We have very strong junior school years 0-8 promoting excellence in Numeracy and Literacy. We are very proud of the quality of our teaching staff and as a result of this, the success of our graduating students.

Area schools have a unique nature; our senior classes are small and provide opportunities for small group and individual support. Attending an Area School, our students enjoy advantages not offered in other schools: - Continuity in their education avoiding the disruption of starting new schools at intermediate and secondary levels;- Significant leadership opportunities for senior students and confidence building relationships for juniors;- A small senior school giving our students the chance to construct 'tailor made' courses, with close and full support of highly professional staff - the success of which can be seen in our NCEA results;- Years 1-6 students have access to specialist facilities and staff usually only available for secondary students. In addition to a normal academic programme and traditional subjects our students are given the opportunity to enjoy our unique environment. Our students are able to select optional subjects that are based on our locality and facilities. Courses currently on offer are: Outdoor Education (this includes surfing, kayaking and snorkeling), Marine Studies, Food, Fashion, Art and Photography.

The Board of Trustees and senior management of the school are committed to fostering high expectations of student achievement, uniform and behaviour; student leadership opportunities; and a close and positive relationship with parents and friends of the school.

The township of Whangamata has permanent population of 3500 but has a summer population of about 30000! The town is famous for its beautiful beach and our world famous surf break, both being a big attraction for many visitors. The whole township is located within walking distance of the beach. The town hosts many events over the year including the now world famous annual 'Beach-hop' and the 'summer festival' over the New Year period. The town has a small industrial area, plenty of shopping, a supermarket plus numerous cafes and restaurants.

National Education Priorities

National Curriculum accessible to all students

Realising Maori and Pacifica Student potential

Pathways development and transitions in and beyond school

Information and communication technology

Success for all with a particular focus on accelerated progress for priority learners

A safe learning environment

Improving Literacy, Numeracy and Writing

Improved flow of student achievement information

Improving Maori student outcomes

Providing career guidance (year 7 and above)

Reporting to students and their families on progress and achievement in relation to National Standards

Whangamata Area School Charter 2013-2015

Mission:

Whangamata Area School will provide for the personalised learning of all students so that they have the skills and attitudes that enable them to thrive in the future

Vision:

Through a positive home/school partnership our students will be confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners

School values:

K – Knowledge

O – Organisation

R – Respect

U - Unity

Ratification of Charter

19/2/13

Submission to MOE

28/2/13

School Priorities

Literacy, Numeracy and Writing

achievements for all pupils

Improved NCEA results for all students

Encourage further development

of Te Reo and Tikanga Maori

Improved home/school Partnership

Improve the school's financial

viability

Improved attendance across all age groups

Values

Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga. - These two values work together. A simple translation is every child in our school should be viewed as part of our family. We wouldn't give up on any of our own children and we would always "go that extra mile" because they are family!

Whakatauki (Proverb):

Ko tō tamaiti te tihi o te maunga (the child is at the peak of the mountain)

Maori dimension and Cultural Diversity

Encourage further development of Te Reo and Tikanga Maori

Encouragement of home / school partnership in order to assist in creating an environment where Maori students enjoy education success as Maori

Develop culturally responsive environments and programmes of learning

Value others' heritage, culture and people

All reasonable steps are taken to provide instruction in Te Reo and Tikanga Māori for full time students whose parents ask for it.