



Is your child
starting school?

Hāere mai ki te kura ō
Wainuiomata Primary
School



Starting School at Wainuiomata Primary

Nau mai hāere mai ki te kura ō Wainuiomata

We are delighted to welcome you and your whānau to our school. If you would like more information, or to come and have a look around our school prior to enrolment, please feel free to contact our Assistant Principal, Samantha Sanders.

*He iti tangata, e tupu he iti toki, e iti tonu iho.
A little child will grow, a little adze will always remain small*



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Contact us:



04 939 8677



sams@wainuiomata.school.nz



A current prospectus is available from our school office.

The Enrolment Form

Please obtain and complete an enrolment form, available from our school office (open 8.30 am to 3.30 pm Monday to Friday) or from our website.

You can do this up to a year before your child turns five. Please try to get your enrolment form to us at least 3 weeks before your child is due to start school.

What to bring with you when you drop off your enrolment form:



Your Child's Birth Certificate or Passport



Vaccination Record
(This is in your Plunket book or your GP can provide you with this if you don't have a Plunket book.)



If your child was born overseas you will need to bring in their passport and current visa information.

School Visits

Once you have enrolled we will arrange for your child to have some visits prior to starting school full time.

The Purpose of Visits

School visits are designed to help your child feel comfortable at school. School life can be quite different to what they have experienced at home or at their Early Learning setting. A full school day, with all the new faces and experiences can be overwhelming for little ones, so the visits start off short and are planned to be a little bit longer each time.

You are welcome to stay with your child during the visit for as little or as long as you would like – there are no hard and fast rules as each child and whānau is different. We do encourage you to leave your little one with us as soon as you feel confident. We promise to take good care of them!



Most children have **4 visits**, however some children may require a longer transition with more visits, or the days or times of your visits may need to be adjusted depending on your individual circumstances. Visits usually take place on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**, in the two weeks leading up to your child's intended start date. If you would like to discuss visits, contact **Samantha Sanders**.

A typical visit schedule might look like this:

- Visit **9am – 11am**
1 This will include our *Akoranga – Learning Through Exploration* time, which may feel comforting and familiar to your child as it may be similar to the learning environment they have experienced in an Early Childhood Education setting.
- Visit **9am – 11.30am**
2 This will include *Akoranga* and also morning tea time – eating and playing.
- Visit **9am – 1pm**
3 This will include all of the above, and also the more formal learning, group work and mat times that take place in the classroom from 11.30 am onwards.
- Visit **9am – 2pm**
4 This will include all of the above, as well as lunch eating at 1pm and the lunchtime play session. Our whole school currently receives free lunches through *Eat My Lunch*, however for visits you will need to **bring lunch for your child**.



Remember to bring:

- Morning tea for visits 2, 3 and 4 and lunch for visit 4*.
- Terms 1 and 4: A named sunhat.
- Terms 2 and 3: A named jacket.
- Please dress your child in clothing and footwear suitable for active play.
- You are welcome to bring a scooter or bicycle (with helmet) for use at play breaks.

*Some junior classes are NUT FREE due to critical allergies – check with the office prior to your visits.

Akoranga – Learning Through Exploration

What is it?

Learning through Exploration is an educational approach where play is the valued mode of learning – children can explore, experiment, discover, and solve problems in imaginative and playful ways with and alongside their friends. As well as playing with traditional toys, children learn to create, adapt and innovate with a variety of materials known as ‘loose parts’. This is a key part of the philosophy of *Akoranga - Learning Through Exploration*.



What does it look like at our school?

Here at Wainuiomata Primary School our junior students will spend part of the day (usually 9.30am – 11 am Monday to Thursday and 11.30 am - 1 pm on Friday) involved in *Akoranga - Learning through Exploration*.



Different activities are carefully planned by the teachers and are available for your child to participate in each day – both inside and outside the classroom. Crafts, puzzles, toys, games and loose parts such as tyres, pool noodles, ropes, sheets, pulleys, blocks and a multitude of other things are available. These loose parts provide rich opportunities for children to explore their interests and use their imagination, creativity and thinking skills. As part of Akoranga, teachers also help children to build positive relationships and friendships.

What are the benefits of Akoranga?

You will notice that your child's first visit is probably scheduled to take place during this time. That is because Learning through Exploration aids a smooth transition to school from an Early Childhood Education setting, and helps children become settled in the school environment more quickly.



For more information on Akoranga - Learning through Exploration/Play you can visit: nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/NZC-Online-blog/Learning-through-play-What-s-it-all-about

There is a growing body of evidence to suggest that learning through play brings numerous benefits to children's learning development. For example: **Thinking Skills** such as problem solving and innovation, **Interpersonal Skills** such as language development, co-operation, negotiation, leadership and compromise, **Intrapersonal Skills** such as the development of emotional wellbeing, self esteem, resilience, persistence and time management, and **Student Agency and Engagement** (feeling motivated and 'in charge' of their learning).

Akoranga also helps promote our school C.A.R.E. values.

Learning to read at Wainuiomata Primary School

In the junior school at Wainuiomata Primary School we use a systematic, explicit and sequential method of teaching reading called **Structured Literacy**.

This approach has evolved from research around how the brain learns to read, and has a large body of evidence behind it. It involves placing a strong emphasis on the learning of letter sounds, and providing the children with resources, books and activities that focus on the sounds as they learn them. The emphasis is on sounding out words, not guessing, skipping or being told them.

The books used are called **decodable books** because children are able to 'decode' (sound out) all of the words in them. In our junior classrooms we primarily use the "**Little Learners Love Literacy**" series of decodable books.

Our CARE Values

At Wainuiomata Primary school we focus on some core values which we call CARE.

These values are integral to our school culture and all parts of our school programme.

They will be embedded in your child's learning journey all the way from Year 0/1 to 6.

Co-operative
(Awhi atu)

Active Learners
(Kaha ki te ako)

Respectful
(Whakaute)

Encouraging
(Aki)

Before you start school

Once your child has completed their visits they should be ready and eager to start school! School stationery is available from the office. Please advise the office of any food allergies or intolerances at least a week prior to your start date so the correct lunch can be ordered for your child.



Remember to bring

For enrolment

- Your Child's Birth Certificate or Passport
- Your Child's Vaccination Record
- Your Child's Passport & Visa information (if born overseas)

For school visits

- Morning tea for visits 2, 3 & 4 and lunch for visit 4*.
- Terms 1 and 4: A named sunhat.
- Terms 2 and 3: A named jacket.
- Please dress your child in clothing and footwear suitable for active play.
- You are welcome to bring a scooter or bicycle (with helmet) for use during morning tea or lunchtime.

Our school visit schedule

Visit 1:

Date:	At:
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Visit 2:

Date:	At:
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Visit 3:

Date:	At:
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Visit 4:

Date:	At:
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Achieving hauora for all: Living, learning, growing... together through CARE.

Tō mātou moemoeā
Mā te mahi ngātahi...
ka ora, ka ako, katipu.



Get in touch



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www.wainuiomata.school.nz



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E kore te ākonga, e rahi ake i tōna,
kaiwhakaako engari ka rite anō,
kia ō ratou kaiwhakaaro



Wainuiomata Primary School would like to thank Lisa Preston photography for capturing these special images of our school whānau and Nicky Smith for the design of this booklet.
Ngā mihi nui, Lisa & Nicky!



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Wainuiomata Primary School, October 2021