



# *Birchville School Enrolment Pack 2026*



12-16 Gemstone Drive, Birchville  
Upper Hutt 5018  
[www.birchville.school.nz](http://www.birchville.school.nz)  
Phone: (04) 526 7128  
Email: [office@birchville.school.nz](mailto:office@birchville.school.nz)

# Te Kura o Birchville Strategic Direction 2026

Ako ki te Aroha. Aroha ki te ako. Learn to Love. Love to Learn.

## Our enduring goals

Know our learners - so they can know themselves  
 Provide learning and social opportunities that are varied and broad  
 Support all to be successful and able to navigate their own futures

### Growing Together — Whakatipu Ngātahi



<p><b>A Strong Foundation</b></p> <p>NZC &amp; Maths Implementation Resourcing and learning needs Teaching Methodologies</p> <p>NZC &amp; Writing Implementation Literacy Foundations Coherence and Consistency</p>	<p><b>Wellbeing at the Heart</b></p> <p>Mitey Programme Implementation Te Ara Whakamana (Mana Model) Integration Data-Informed Wellbeing Culture</p>	<p><b>A Curriculum Unique to US</b></p> <p>Te Tiriti Partnership &amp; Governance Mātauranga Māori Curriculum Redevelopment Cultural Competence &amp; Mana Mokopuna</p>	<p><b>Unleashing Creativity</b></p> <p>Integrated Curriculum Design Student Agency &amp; Technology Integration Purposeful Play &amp; Exploration</p>
<p><b>Eng: The Independent Author</b> <b>Maths: Fluency and Investigation</b></p> <p>At Birchville School, we bridge foundational mastery with creative independence by integrating the refreshed NZC frameworks across Mathematics and English. By balancing explicit, structured instruction in numeracy and literacy "mechanics" with rich problem-solving and the Think SRSD writing framework, we empower students to move from mastering basic codes to investigating complex problems with metacognitive confidence. This high-impact approach is supported by differentiated resources and culturally rich texts reflecting te ao Māori and Pacific perspectives, ensuring every learner develops the "tool kit" necessary to become an innovative, independent author and mathematician.</p>	<p><b>Wellbeing: The Grounded Learner (Mitey &amp; Mana)</b></p> <p>Wellbeing is our foundation for learning. Through the <b>Mitey</b> programme, we explicitly teach mental health education. This is paired with the <b>Te Ara Whakamana (Mana Model)</b>, with a specific focus on <b>Papatūānuku (Grounding)</b>. We aim to equip every student with the vocabulary and self-regulation tools to manage their emotions, ensuring they feel safe, seen, and ready to learn.</p>	<p><b>Te Tiriti &amp; Mātauranga Māori: Partnership in Action</b></p> <p>As a <b>Te Tiriti-based school</b>, we are redeveloping our curriculum to be uniquely "Birchville." This means moving beyond generic themes to localized <b>Mātauranga Māori</b>—the stories, places, and history of our local iwi and land. Through <b>Mana Mokopuna</b>, we ensure Māori learners thrive as Māori, and all students grow in their identity as citizens of a bicultural Aotearoa.</p>	<p><b>Creative Curriculum: Future-Ready Inquiry</b></p> <p>We are breaking down traditional "subject silos" to create an <b>Integrated Creative Curriculum</b>. By weaving together Science, Technology, Arts, and Environmental Studies, we foster <b>student agency</b>. Learning at Birchville is active, hands-on, and inquiry-driven. We use technology as a tool for creation and the environment as our classroom, ensuring students develop the critical thinking and resilience needed for a rapidly changing world.</p>



# *Nau mai, Haere mai and Welcome to Birchville*

*E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e te iwi, nau mai, piki mai, whakatau mai rā.*

*At Birchville School we are passionate about helping children discover and achieve their potential. We recognise that people come with different values, cultures, strengths and needs and as a staff, together with our community, we are committed to celebrating diversity and providing a quality education that meets the needs of all students.*

*At Birchville School we see our role as helping our children shine. We do this through genuine relationships, meaningful opportunities and a rich, integrated curriculum which challenges, engages, promotes and celebrates learning for all.*

*Our purpose is simple:*

***Learn to Love, Love to Learn. Ako ki te Aroha, Aroha ki te ako.***

***Learning to love / Aroha ki te ako** is all about building relationships. It's valuing each other in a culture of high trust, acceptance of diversity and a commitment to working together. It's also about finding the things that make us happy, that excite us, our passions and aspirations and that the more we learn the more likely we are to live full, happy lives.*

***Love to learn / Ako ki te Aroha** is about instilling children with a passion for lifelong learning, and a positive mindset towards academic and social success. We want our learners to be aware of how they learn best, what they need to do next and demonstrate the ability to make informed choices on where, when and how they will make the required progress across the curriculum in a manner that is effective and targeted to their needs.*



# Starting School

*It is recommended that all new students and their parents visit our school before enrolment, and if you wish, you may meet with Robyn Brown, our principal. This is an excellent opportunity for new families to be given the chance to see the school and the programmes offered, to ask questions, and to be introduced to people within our school, including your child's class teacher.*

## *Pre Enrolments*

*Enrolments will be accepted at any time. However, where possible, we encourage parents to pre-enrol their children up to two years before their fifth birthday. This assists the school with its forward planning. All enrolment applications are now online via the [Birchville School Website](#).*



## Cohort Entry

Cohort entry is about helping children to settle better in school. There's evidence that starting school alongside other children helps children build relationships and supports a smoother entry to school life.

We believe it offers our tamariki the best start to their school life. It also means less disruption for our new entrant teachers who can prepare for groups of children arriving on a specific date, rather than on an individual and ad hoc basis throughout the year.

New entrants start school as a group after they have turned five, and there will be two entry points per term (beginning and mid-point).

## 2026 Mid-Term Dates for Schools with Cohort Entry

TERM	START OF TERM DATE	MID-TERM DATE	END OF TERM DATE
1	02/02/2026	09/03/2026	02/04/2026
2	20/04/2026	02/06/2026	03/07/2026
3	20/07/2026	24/08/2026	25/09/2026
4	12/10/2026	16/11/2026	15/12/2026

The mid-term date is the mid-point between the start of the term and the start of the next term.

- If your child's birthday is before the **start of term date**, then they can start school at the **beginning of that term**.
- If their birthday is between the **start of term date** and the **mid term date**, then they can start school on the **mid term date**.
- If their birthday is between the **mid term date** and the **start of the next term's date** then they can start school at the beginning of the next term.



## ***Birchville School Transition to School Process***

*At Birchville we welcome our new entrant tamariki with a gentle transition from early childhood to school by offering school visits.*

*An invitation will be sent out to new starters approximately 4-6 weeks before their start date. We encourage a minimum of 3 visits to foster building relationships and ensure children are settled and ready for school. These visits happen on Wednesdays in Kauri Class which is located in Emerald Block.*

*New starters will be here for a brainfood break and morning tea, so please bring a water bottle, a piece of fruit/vegetable and a small snack to enjoy at school. (If your child is visiting in Terms One and Four a wide brimmed sun hat is required)*

*To ensure a smooth transition and build strong connections, we warmly invite whānau to stay during some of the visit time to Kauri Class. The initial session provides a valuable opportunity for you to meet with the New Entrant's teacher, get to know one another, and learn more about Birchville School and the Kauri Class environment. Please feel free to speak with the kaiako to discuss this further and address any specific needs your child may have.*





# School Information

## Absences

Please contact the school by 9am when your child is absent. This can be done by ringing the school office, via our Hero app or by following the links on the school website. It is also important that the school office is informed of any changes to each families contact names, numbers and addresses. You can call the school office on 04 526 7128 or email [office@birchville.school.nz](mailto:office@birchville.school.nz) to update your information at any time.

## Vistab Sign In

Please come in to the office and sign in if you are a visitor/parent help at school or if your child is arriving late or leaving early.

## Newsletters/School Information

Parents and caregivers are kept informed of school news and activities through our School Management System (HERO). Communications can be printed in hard copy format for parents at their request, however, we are an Eco School and we are trying to reduce our paper usage.

## Parking

Please be aware that between 8:30am and 3:30pm, the school car park is for staff and mobility parking permit holders only. Please refrain from parking on the yellow lines outside the school as the road patrol children cannot see oncoming traffic.

# School Information

## Library

We are lucky to have a wonderful library which is run by our school librarian. Classes use the library regularly and students can have books signed out for them to enjoy. The library is sometimes open during lunch breaks, allowing the tamariki additional opportunities to access this fantastic facility.

## School Hours

Children can enter learning spaces at the start of the day: 8.30am

School starts: 9.00am

Morning tea: 11am - 11.40am

Lunch break: 12:40pm - 1:20pm

School finishes: 3.00pm

## Additional Information

Please note that Birchville is a **Water Only** school.

Students have a brain break where they can snack on a piece of fruit or vegetable brought in from home at approximately 10am.

We encourage minimal packaging within lunch boxes.

Wide brimmed hats **MUST** be worn during outside activities throughout Terms 1 & 4.

Any students riding a bike, scooter etc must wear a helmet.

If children are to walk, bike etc home from school alone or with siblings, the office must be informed.

Students cell phones may not be used at school - they must be handed in at the office at the beginning of the day, and can be collected at the end of the school day

# Communicating & Reporting with Hero

Here at Birchville we use the communication and reporting system, Hero. An online sharing platform with complementary smart app.

Hero allows schools to customise an online environment that enables teachers, students, and families to **view and share content anytime, anywhere on any device**. The software is secure, easy to use and brings together all school-related information in one place.

With Hero, you have the ability to:

- read and comment on posts relating to your child's learning
- view information on your child's progress and goals,
- read and comment on school notices sent to the class or groups your child is part of
- respond to school notices such as surveys and trip permission requests
- view school term dates
- view a school calendar of events
- notify the school if your child is absent or late
- navigate to other school-related webpages
- customise your account by adding a profile image
- select how you wish to receive notifications

Learning posts combined with curriculum information and goal-setting will form an online report designed to build year-on-year so that over time you will have access to written posts, images, video, work samples, and helpful resources all in one place.

Over the coming year, staff and students will be posting rich content to our Hero software. We are looking forward to sharing this with you, including you in your child's learning journey.

For information about Hero including how to log in, go to:

<https://linc-ed-hero.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/34865709271321-Logging-into-Hero-Information-for-Families>

or contact Kelly in the office at [office@birchville.school.nz](mailto:office@birchville.school.nz) or call 04 526 7128

## Payments

Once enrolled please make school payments, such as stationery fees, through Hero, into the School Board account: 12-3478-0038482-00 or via cash/EFTPOS in the school Office.

The cost for stationery for 2026 is \$45 per student.

★ We also request each student to bring in a box of tissues and a tin of food for our emergency supplies.



## Site Plan and Emergency Meeting Point

*Our Emergency Evacuation Assembly Area is on the school field near the fence as indicated on the map. Whānau are to wait at the gate, that leads onto the school field which is located next to Birchville Kindy, for their children to be released by a member of staff. Please be patient as the children will only be released one at a time or with their siblings.*



## Birchville School is Smoke Free

*Our smoke free policy allows us to comply with smokefree legislation, and promote a smoke free lifestyle to all members of the school community. This policy applies to all smoking and vaping products, including e-cigarettes*



## ***Birchville School - Kura Tiaki***

### ***Before and After School Care***

*If you're looking for a safe, structured and fun environment for your children then you've come to the right place!*

***During term time we offer:***

*Before School Care (7.30am - 8.30am)*

*and*

*After School Care (3.00pm - 6.00pm)*

*Our Programme is well structured, focusing both on education and fun, reassuring parents that their children are well cared for in a familiar fun & loving environment.*

*Our daily programme involves feeding the children with breakfast in the morning for Before School Care children and a light snack for those attending after school, assisting the children with their homework, encouraging reading time and finally ending the day with fun activities like Art and Creative activities and Indoor and Outdoor sports in a safe and secure environment, all supervised by our experienced and friendly staff.*

***For more information about our programme:***

*Email - [kuratiaki@birchville.school.nz](mailto:kuratiaki@birchville.school.nz)*