



Waipipi School

New Entrant

Handbook



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Welcome to Waipipi School



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Established in 1874, Waipipi School has a proud 150-year heritage of serving and growing alongside our local families. Situated on the outskirts of the Waiuku township, we are a vibrant, community-focused school welcoming a wonderful mix of learners from both town and rural settings.

We pride ourselves on our highly supportive, relational environment. Our school is small enough that we truly know all our tamariki, allowing our highly skilled teachers to develop strong, meaningful connections with every student and their whaanau. At our school, we live and learn by "The Waipipi Way". This positive school culture is anchored in our core CARE values, which guide how we support, respect, and encourage one another every day:

We are dedicated to developing the whole child by balancing strong academic growth in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics with personal development. But learning at Waipipi goes far beyond the classroom! We are passionate about making school life fun, adventurous, and memorable. Our students regularly participate in hands-on exploration, exciting outdoor education, and creative performing arts—from school productions and house challenges to our cherished, long-standing rural tradition of Calf Club. We also celebrate our cultural heritage by actively integrating Te Ao Māori into our daily rituals, and we are always kept company by our much-loved school cat, Cricket!

A strong partnership between home and school is what makes Waipipi so special. Our doors are always open, and we warmly welcome you to join our wonderful school family.

*Robyn Grey
Principal*



Waipipi School House Groups

At Waipipi School, our house spirit is a vibrant and essential part of our school culture. Our four House Groups are named after beautiful native birds found right here in our local environment: Piiwakawaka, Kereruu, Tuuii and Kororaa. We endeavour to keep families together in the same house and your child will learn their house group within the first week of school.



Yr 1 & 2

Co-operate

I can share, take turns, listen to others, and help my friends when we are learning or playing together.

Accountable

I can try my best, follow instructions, and tell the truth when I make a mistake.

Respect

I can use kind words and gentle hands, look after my belongings, and care for our classroom and school.

Enthusiasm

I can come to school ready to learn, have a positive attitude, and give new things a go.

In Year 1 & 2
C.A.R.E. means
learning how to
be part of a
group. Students
are supported to
practise
kindness,
honesty, and
effort, and to
develop
confidence in
learning through
encouragement
and play.

Enrolment and Orientation

If you know your child will attend Waipipi School, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can ensure appropriate staffing. Pre-enrolment is best done 3 to 6 months prior to your child starting school (children are eligible to start once they turn 5).

You can enroll your child online via our website or pick up an enrolment pack from the school office. The only document required is your child's birth certificate.

We believe students have the best transition to school when they have the opportunity to meet their teacher and classmates, locate their classroom and toilets, and get familiar with daily routines.

Pre-starting Visits:

- **Morning Visits:** We offer three morning visits to our New Entrant classroom prior to your child's start date.
- **Parent Attendance:** A parent or caregiver is required to stay on school grounds during these visits. You are welcome to observe the class or relax in our staffroom.

What will my child need for school?

Students are required to wear a uniform starting on their first day of school. The uniform can be purchased from the school office during an orientation visit or anytime prior to their first day. The official uniform consists of:

- **Waipipi fleece/jumper**
- **Waipipi shirt**
- **School hat** (required for Terms 1 and 4)

Students must pair these top items with plain black bottoms (shorts, skirts, trackpants, or trousers) and any suitable footwear.



A stationery pack can be purchased through the school office when you are attending your pre-start visits.

School Bag & Essentials

*Please provide a practical bag—not too big or too small—that your child can manage themselves. Your child should be able to zip it up, carry it, and hang it independently. **Please name all items that come to school.***

Your child's bag should hold:

- **Lunchbox:** Packed with enough food for morning tea and lunch (please do not include lollies, chocolate bars, or fizzy drinks)
- **Drink bottle**
- **Book bag**
- **Spare clothing:** A pair of spare pants and underwear packed in a plastic bag



Encourage Independence to Support Your

Child's School Readiness

You can help your child prepare for school by encouraging their independence with everyday tasks. Simple ways to build their confidence include practicing:

Self-Care & Dressing



- **Dressing independently:** Putting on and taking off their clothes and shoes, including drying and dressing themselves after swimming in summer.
- **Personal hygiene:** Going to the toilet, washing their hands by themselves, and blowing their own nose.
- **Mealtime skills:** Feeding themselves, opening lunch packages, and opening their drink bottle.

Managing Belongings

- **Bag organization:** Zipping up their bag, hanging it up, and putting clothes away inside it.
- **Tidying up:** Cleaning up after themselves (e.g., putting lids back on pens).

Classroom & Fine Motor Skills

- **Tool handling:** Using scissors, pencils, and crayons.
- **Focus & listening:** Sitting down for short periods, listening, and following instructions.



Social & Emotional Growth

- **Physical play:** Bouncing and catching a ball.
- **Social skills:** Sharing and taking turns with others.
- **Resilience:** Allowing for mistakes and building resilience when things don't go quite their way.

Key Learning Skills to Practice Before Starting School

Reading

- **Listening:** Calmly sit and listen to a story.
- **Comprehension:** Retell a story and talk about its beginning, middle, and end.
- **Book Handling:** Know that we read books from front to back and left to right.
- **Recognition:** Recognize their own name.
- **Rhyme:** Know some nursery rhymes and identify rhyming words.

Writing

- **Tool Control:** Use a writing device such as a pen or pencil.
- **Drawing:** Draw a picture about an experience.
- **Name Writing:** Attempt to write their own name.



Oral Language

- **Sentence Use:** Speak in complete sentences.
- **Expressing Needs:** Vocalize personal needs (e.g., "I need to go to the toilet").
- **Recounting:** Talk about their day and recount events.
- **Communication:** Answer questions effectively.
- **Following Directions:** Listen to and follow two-part instructions.

Mathematics

- **Counting & Numerals:** Count to 10 and recognize numerals 1–10.
- **Play & Logic:** Play board games, complete puzzles, and identify patterns.
- **Positional Language:** Use positional words like forwards, backwards, above, below, up, and down.

A Day at Our School

8:25 - First bell rings; students line up outside their classroom and wait for the teacher to welcome them into class.

8:30 – 9:30 - School starts: Meet & greet Block 1 Learning

9:30 – 9:45 - Playtime and morning tea break

9:45 – 10:45 - Block 2 Learning

10:45 – 11:00 - Playtime and morning tea break.

11:00 – 12:00 - Block 3 Learning.

12:00 – 1:00 - Lunch break.

1:00 – 2:25 - Block 4 Learning

2:25 - Children who take the bus home line up in bus lines, and students who are picked up go with the teacher to the carpark path.

