AWAHONO SCHOOL
GREY VALLEY

Discovering, Believing, Achieving

"Ma te huruhuru, ka rere te manu"

Adorn the bird with feathers so it may soar



Parent Information Booklet

Respect **Responsibility** **Resilience**


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AWAHONO SCHOOL
GREY VALLEY

This booklet is designed to provide information about our school. If you have further queries or would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us directly.



School Address: 20 Napoleon Street
Ahaura
Telephone (03) 7323713
Cell 027 750 3516

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 111
Ahaura
West Coast 7843

School email: admin@awahono.school.nz
principal@awahono.school.nz

School website: www.awahono.school.nz





Awahono School - Grey Valley

Awahono School – Grey Valley is a rural school situated in the heart of the Grey Valley. The schools catchment includes children from Moonlight, Totara Flat, Ngahere, Haupiri, Ikamatua and Ahaura. Our school is located in the village of Ahaura in the Grey Valley. The name Awahono means the joining of rivers; each of our communities has a river alongside or close by that flows into the Big Grey River.

The school has a very modern range of facilities, which includes seven classrooms, library, multi-purpose room, covered outdoor areas, resource spaces, a covered, heated swimming pool, and a food technology room. Classrooms are connected by walkways with covered verandas.

The grounds incorporate a large open playing field with a well-equipped adventure playground, sandpit, bike track (designed by students) and hard-court areas. We also have a large orchard area, school garden and a glasshouse.

We value our rural school setting and incorporate local curriculum learning into our days.

Awahono School receives good strong community support, which is evidenced by the number of volunteers in the classrooms, parent helpers on excursions, attendance at assemblies, school events, pet days and school camps.

The major focus of strategic planning over the next three to five years is on fully engaging all students in exciting collaborative learning with specific emphasis on raising all student achievement in literacy and numeracy. We also have a major focus on wellbeing.

Play-based discovery learning is a major focus for our school, along with wellbeing for both students and staff. We have specialist facilitators working within our school implementing a range of wellbeing programmes and musical programmes.

Awahono School is well-equipped with up-to-date resources and equipment to support the implementation of the curriculum and the educational needs of our students.

The Year 7 and 8 students go fortnightly by bus to John Paul High School to participate in technology lessons.

The Junior School facilitates close liaisons with the Grey Valley Playcentre and operates a familiarisation programme with parents and children to allow for an easy transition to school.

Our school belongs to a cluster of schools called the Midland Line; we meet with Paparoa Range, Lake Brunner, Barrytown and Kumara Schools for various sporting events. We are also involved in the Māwhera Kāhui Ako Cluster and the Toki Pounamu Cluster.









Staff

Principal: Mrs Vanessa Stewart

Deputy Principal: Mrs Wendy Hahn

Learning Support Coordinator: Mrs Natalie McEnaney

Teachers: Year 0 - 1, Mrs Wendy Hahn

Year 2 & 3, Mrs Lisa Oates

Year 3 & 4, Miss Katie Nisbett

Year 5 & 6, Miss Leaticia Lagan

Year 7 & 8, Mrs Danielle Carruthers

Relievers, Selena Robinson & Alicia Coll





Teacher Aides: Mrs Judy Bagnall

Mrs Jess Liddell

Miss Vicky Thomson

Mrs Clare Ferguson

Mrs Rachel Mesman

Mrs Jenna Hahn

Miss Shannan Robertson

Administration: Mrs Jo Matthews

Board of Trustees

Board Members



Chairperson: Mrs Charlotte Perkins

Principal: Mrs Vanessa Stewart

Staff Rep: Miss Katie Nisbett

Parent Reps: Mr Thomas Oats

Mr Rangi Hahn

Mrs Kelly O'Malley

Mrs Casey Colebrook

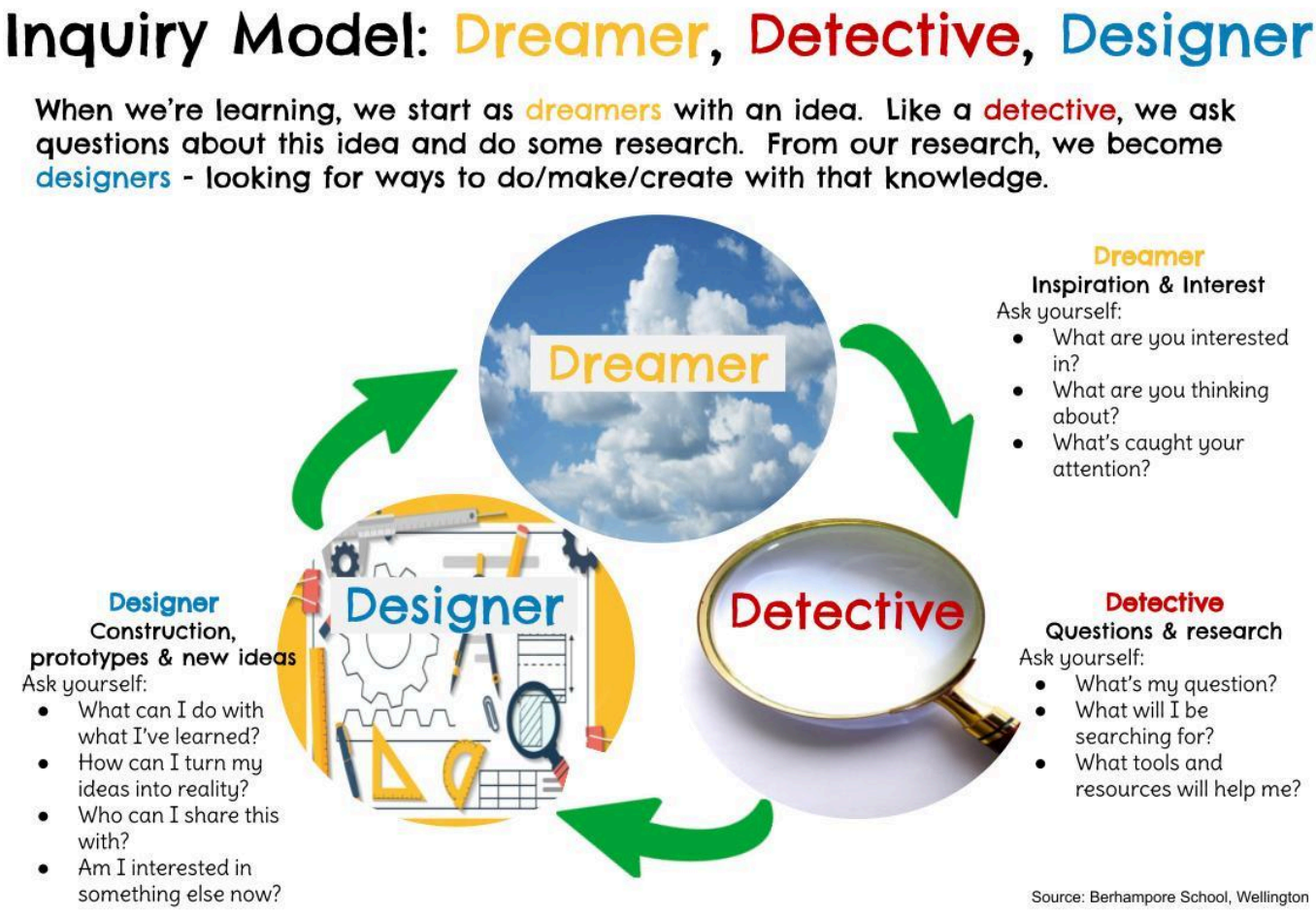


Discovery Learning

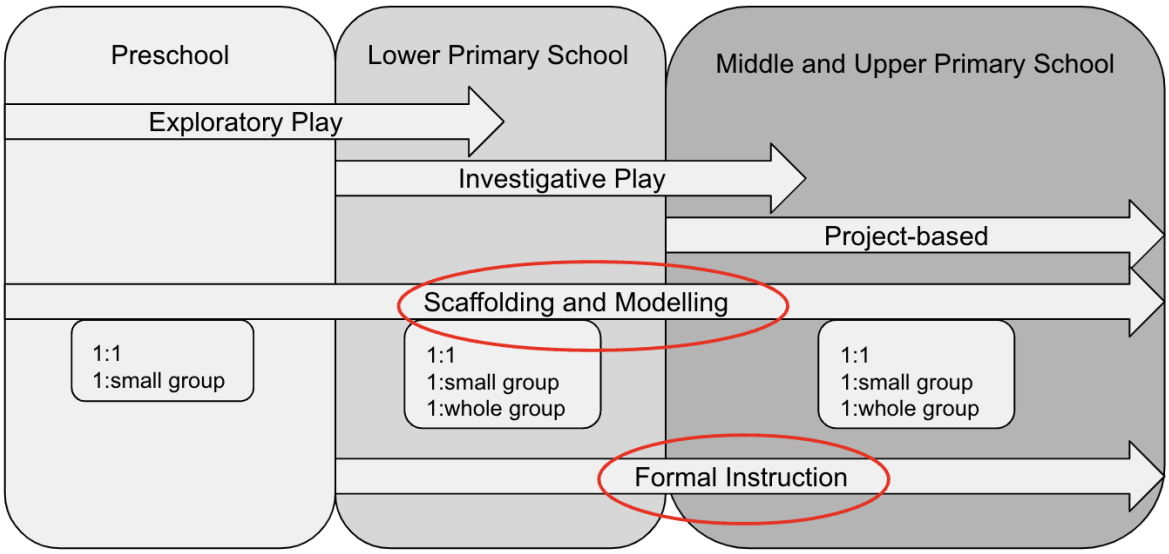
We want the students of Awahono to be lifelong learners, that continue to wonder and explore the world around them and we believe that a Discovery Based Curriculum helps provide this.

When children begin school we believe the focus needs to be how they feel about themselves as a learner. We want them to build positive experiences and a strong self confidence that they can learn. This level focuses on social and emotional skills through the use of exploratory play, rather than the cognitive skills.

"Create the thinker before you try and add the facts." Nathan Mikaere-Wallis

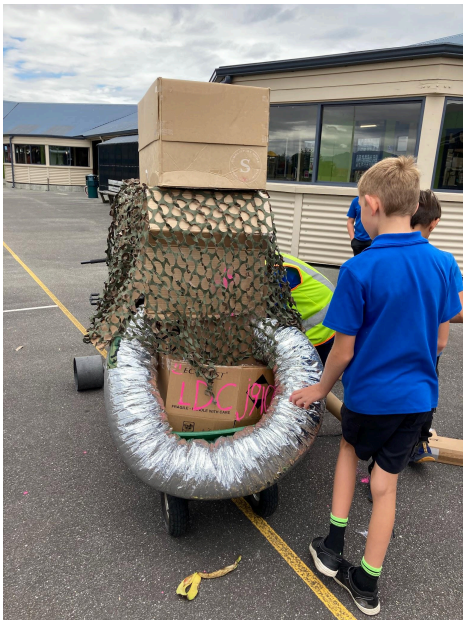


While the Discovery model is child centred and interest-driven there are many intentional acts of teaching that go alongside, where the teacher works with small groups of children on Literacy and Numeracy.



Taken from 'Play Matters' by Kathy Walker









Garden to Table

Awahono School is part of the Garden to Table programme, intertwining our love of gardening with kitchen creativity to build life-long skills and knowledge. All students will have a chance to participate in the Garden to Table programme with each class taking turns on different aspects of the programme weekly.







Key Competencies

Capabilities for living and lifelong learning

At Awahono School – Grey Valley we encourage children to use **Thinking Skills** to:

- Create knowledge
- Be creative
- Be critical in their thinking
- Reflect on their learning and information
- Ask questions
- Challenge their understanding

At Awahono School – Grey Valley we encourage children to **Manage Themselves** by:

- Being ready for their learning
- Developing personal and learning goals
- Being resourceful, reliable, resilient
- Having a 'can do' attitude
- Being self motivated

At Awahono School – Grey Valley we encourage children to **Relate to Others** by:

- Being able to actively listen
- Know when it is appropriate to compete or co-operate
- Sharing their ideas
- Knowing how their words and actions affect others

At Awahono School – Grey Valley we encourage children to **Participate and Contribute** by:

- Developing a sense of belonging
- Knowing how to contribute appropriately
- Knowing how to share their ideas
- Knowing how to join a group
- Respecting others
- Knowing how to connect with others

At Awahono School – Grey Valley we encourage children to use **Languages, Symbols and Text** by:

- Developing their comprehension skills
- Using a wide range of media
- Developing their Literacy and Numeracy vocabulary
- Understanding that text is not just in books

Hours

We welcome children to be at school from 8:30am unless prior arrangements have been made with staff for an earlier arrival.

First session	9:00am – 11:00am
First Break	11:00am – 11:30am
Second Session	11:30am – 1:00pm
Lunch - Eating	1:00pm – 1:15pm
Play	1:15pm – 1:40pm
Cleanup Bell	1:40pm
Afternoon Session	1:45pm – 2:45pm

All children will be expected to be off-site by 3:15pm unless prior arrangements have been made with staff.

Attendance

Attendance at school is a legal requirement and research is indicating that students with low attendance rates are at risk of lower achievement. If your child is going to be absent from school please contact the school before 9:00am. If your child is going to be away for a period of time, please advise the school in writing prior to this happening.

Safety Procedures

Once a child comes into school in the morning they do not leave the school grounds without permission. If children need to bring money to school it should be given to the class teacher for safe keeping. Bringing cellphones to school is discouraged. However, if you think your child needs a cellphone for any reason, it must be handed into the office on their arrival at school and collected at the end of the day. In an emergency, children will be cared for by staff members until a parent or caregiver collects them from school.

Communication

Most information from the school is communicated through our Facebook page, text messages and our fortnightly newsletters. Notices from individual class teachers are communicated through the Seesaw app and through a newsletter. We actively encourage parents to contact the school about any concerns they may have about their child at school. We prefer to have the opportunity to address issues early rather than be informed when an issue has escalated. Please ring the school to make a time if you wish to see classroom teachers or the Principal.

Uniform

Our uniform is:

- Royal blue polo top; short or long sleeve
- Royal blue polar fleece
- Plain black bottoms; shorts/skort/skirt/pants
- Black socks or tights
- Sunhat

You are able to purchase our uniform from ‘The Warehouse’.
We do have some second hand pieces available through the office too.



All clothing and personal belongings need to be **clearly named.**







KidsCan

Stationery

The school has stationery for sale. Items will be charged to your stationery account.

Classroom Programmes

Junior School – Years 0 - 3

When children begin school we believe the focus needs to be how they feel about themselves as a learner. We want them to build positive experiences and a strong self confidence that they can learn. This level focuses on social and emotional skills through the use of exploratory play, rather than the cognitive skills.

Middle School – Years 4 – 5 Digital Classroom

These students continue to develop their literacy and numeracy skills along with other areas of the curriculum. Creativity continues to be encouraged in all areas. There is a focus on improving self-motivation and general work habits where the students take an active role in their learning. There is a balance between digital, hands on and paper/pencil approaches to learning.

Senior School – Years 6 – 8 Digital Classroom

The senior school objective is to prepare the children for High School and beyond. Another of our objectives is to develop the children into young leaders who aspire to reach their own personal goals.

Sports

Our communities have produced some outstanding role models in sporting achievement and participation. We encourage all our students to participate in sporting pursuits both within and outside the school. We expose our children to a variety of opportunities to take part in physical activity through our inter-school competitions such as an annual athletics day, swimming sports, cross country along with rugby, hockey, cricket, basketball, miniball and korfball competitions.

Swimming

Swimming is a part of the school curriculum and is held during Terms 1 and 4. We have an indoor heated swimming pool that is used by our school and the wider community. All children are expected to go swimming with their classes. If they are unable to do so then a note is required.

School Camps

School camps are encouraged using our natural environment as a tool to enhance understanding of conservation and sustainability. Year 7-8 students usually have a camp of at least three nights. Year 5-6 students normally have two nights away. Our year 3-4 students have one night away every second year, and the Junior school usually opt for a day out.







Kapa Haka, Music, Boxing

We have a Kapa Haka group that takes part in our annual Kapa Haka Festival. This group also performs at different school events throughout the year. We have a music tutor who visits the school once a week and will work with individual children. We have a trained boxing instructor that visits once a week and teaches our children the skills of boxing. Fitness sessions are included in these weekly sessions. All these groups are optional for the students.

Parent Involvement

We welcome parent involvement in our school programmes where appropriate, especially when talents and abilities can be shared with the children. At times an extra pair of hands can be helpful when completing special projects.

Assemblies

Whole school major assemblies are held twice a term.

Special Events in our School

Pet Day

Pet Day is held yearly in October/November. This reflects our rural locality and farming families. Children show that they can care for an animal, be it a farm animal eg calf, lamb or family pet eg, cat, bird, dog.

Year 7 and 8 Technology

Currently all year 7 and 8 students attend Technology classes at John Paul High School. Students travel into town every second Wednesday on the school bus. Students come to school as normal in uniform, travel to town and receive technology then travel home in time for afternoon bus runs.

Toki Pounamu

The Toki Pounamu cluster is a group of thirteen schools on the West Coast of the South Island of Aotearoa, New Zealand. During 2015, ten schools were accepted onto the Manaiakalani Education Trust's Outreach programme, three more schools joined in 2017. The positive benefits include digital enablement (1:1 Chromebooks), and access to intensive professional development for digital immersion, and the Learn, Create, Share pedagogy. The priority goal is to raise student achievement, particularly in writing and mathematics. "Toki Pounamu" is the 'Sharp Edge of Learning', being "Toki" (Māori Adze) symbolizing authority, strength and triumph over adversity. The overall aim of the Toki Pounamu Education Trust is to develop the capacity of children and families in the West Coast Community through the advancement of learning.





Buses

Most of our children travel via school buses. If you require your child to travel on a bus please check with the office about eligibility and pick-up and drop-off times.
Our primary focus and intent is that the students travelling on the bus do so in a safe and orderly manner. For this to happen everyone needs to be aware of the school's expectations.

- Bus vests will be worn when travelling to and from school on the bus.
- Students will sit where the bus monitors ask them to.
- Students will follow requests made of them by staff, the bus driver and the bus monitors.
- Students will remain seated until they reach their stop.



Parents need to:

- Inform the school office if you are collecting your child. This is vital as we need to account for every child on the bus roll.
- Meet the bus with your child in the morning and be waiting for your child to be dropped off.

To ensure the system runs smoothly...

- It is very important that you inform the office of any temporary or permanent changes to bus requirements.
- If changes are required, the office must be notified before 2:30pm, otherwise students will be sent home on the bus as usual.



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