



Birkdale Primary School

Birkdale Primary School Description

Birkdale Primary School is one of the oldest school's on Auckland's North Shore established in 1894 and one that is steeped in rich history. Our motto *Our Aim the Highest* remains at the forefront of the board's strategic vision. We are very proud of our heritage and in particular that of having ex Birkdale Primary School students who fought for New Zealand becoming WW1 ANZACs.

Birkdale Primary School is a delightful small to medium sized school in a low to mid economic urban setting that has been experiencing recent demographic changes as Auckland's development continues to expand.

We celebrate our uniqueness in having two settings within Birkdale Primary School i.e. our special character Level 1 Māori immersion (rūmaki) unit Te Puāwaitanga and our English immersion setting. We are a MAC (Maori Achievement Collaborative) school, currently working towards Level 4A immersion status in our auraki (English immersion) through dedicated and deliberate teaching and learning of Te Ao Māori. Our rūmaki tamariki and kaiako support our auraki bringing strength and commitment to culture and identity in our kura and our community. We have a dedicated Te Reo Māori teacher who works with each auraki class to develop language and tikanga.

Our school is a Silver Enviro school that has 80-100 year old oak trees on the property along with the beautiful Kaipatiki bush and estuary at our doorstep.

We are a PB4L school and our schoolwide approach supports our amazing students to develop strength of character and competencies that are already seeing them as fine citizens of the future. We aim for our students to leave at the end of Year 6 as inquirers and courageous thinkers who are considered in their approaches to using their ever evolving knowledge to challenge, to form opinions and to be solutions focused. Our tamariki are very energetic and sporty involving themselves in many sports and activities both internally and externally.

Whanaungatanga, Kaitiakitanga, and Manaakitanga are our strong values which are upheld across the school and within our community. Our amazing staff embrace their supportive and warm multicultural community and enjoy the relationships which continue to strengthen and illustrate the values we uphold.

We have 220 students and a staff of 12 teachers including principal, deputy principal and senior leader, 5 teacher-aides, 2 office staff and 1 property manager. There is an RTLB cluster located on our site. Equity and inclusion are essential and we embrace, and celebrate the differences of each of our students and staff. We have a strong Learning Support programme to meet the needs of those students who require additional support.

Our current professional learning and development focus with the support of an external facilitator is on localising curriculum with the incorporation of New Zealand Histories. We bring

together Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (the curriculum used in Te Puāwaitanga and which sits within the New Zealand Curriculum) and New Zealand Curriculum bringing a rich Māori world and wider world view into teaching and learning.

We continue to build leadership at all levels. Teachers lead and collaborate Innovation Teams: Rōpu Curriculum Innovation, Rōpu Whānaungatanga Innovation and SEL (Social, Emotional Learning) Innovation. The Rōpu Innovations give important opportunities for collaborative and transparent initiatives that bring together students and community. Our tamariki, upon enrolment are placed in houses: Kea, Pukeko, Tui and Kotare with each House being capably led by House leaders and deputy leaders nominated by peers.

Fundraising is an ongoing focus as the Friends of the School continue their efforts to build a new playground. Recent successful projects have been completed through Charitable Trust funds and include new sports uniforms which the tamariki wear with pride, shading structures, sandpit renovations and bark for the playground.

Our board is very committed to the best outcomes for our tamariki. They are supportive and encouraging of the principal and all staff, and strategic in their approach. They themselves are teachers and learners as are all staff, our tamariki and whānau. Reciprocal relationships cannot be separated.