



Birkdale Primary School

Parent Consultation

(1) Describe the most important personal qualities the new principal should have.

The parents (who responded) have said that they would like an empathetic and approachable principal who is a clear leader, a good listener and a relationship builder – with staff, students, parents and the community. They want someone who will take a firm stance against bullying and unkind behaviour, while also being supportive and unbiased towards ethnicity, gender and age. They want a principal who has good budgeting and organisational skills, is committed to the school and fosters a mindset of improvement and innovation. They are looking for someone who understands Te Ao Māori and supports the kaupapa, and empowers others to achieve their best and uphold the vision of the school.

(2) Describe the most important ways you would like to see your new principal “connecting” with parents?

The parents would like to see the new principal be visible and approachable in the school and be available to greet or farewell students and their families, at the gates, on a regular basis. They would like to see the principal at school and community events, showing support at fundraisers, cultural events etc. The parents would like to be emailed about whatever is coming up at school, with plenty of notice for things like trips, school photos, book day costumes etc. so that busy parents have time to make arrangements. They would also like the chance to give more feedback and be kept up with future plans for the school. On parent-child-teacher interviews, they would appreciate the principal being available to talk to too. The parents would appreciate regular communication coming home about positives, future plans and being asked for feedback. They seek a new principal who likes to get to know the students and their families and learn their names. It has also been suggested that the principal could invite a few parents in for morning tea every once in a while, to talk about key kaupapa relating to the school at that time.

(3) Please write down any other points – such as professional or leadership expertise that the Board should take in consideration.

The points the parents would like the Board of Trustees to take into consideration when appointing a new principal are: that they have experience in low decile schools with diverse backgrounds and different demographics. They want someone who is driven, a problem-solver, communicates clearly, has digital and management skills and a deep comprehension of children and family needs. They would like a principal who supports and empowers the teachers and support staff and cultivates leadership. They also want someone who'll be a good role model for the students.

To inspire a community of caring, curious thinkers who aim the highest.