



DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Waikaretu is a two teacher school. Our picturesque, well-resourced school, currently has a roll of 27 Year 1 to Year 8 students. The school is located in the west reaches of the Waikato, towards the coast from Huntly. A School House is available. This isolated, rural community, is home to west-coast beaches and other attractions, including:

- fishing
- surfing
- caving (Nikau Caves)
- hiking
- pony trekking

From our community you can access the cafes and restaurants in Pukekohe (55mins) and Hamilton (1hr 15mins), Onewhero golf course and theatre group, and the hot pools at Waingaro.

We are a family orientated school providing a physically and emotionally safe environment for our learners. All students have equal access to learning opportunities regardless of ability, gender, race and personal circumstances. We provide a balanced and engaging curriculum for our learners. At Waikaretu School we value our dual heritage that makes us New Zealanders.

Waikaretu School is dedicated to equipping its students with the key competencies, values and knowledge for their educational journey and, thereby, laying the foundations for them to become citizens of discernment, who value integrity and excellence in all aspects of life and who have a strong values base which will help them to serve in the world as confident, competent and compassionate adults.

The school's vision, "Striving for Excellence", is to provide learners with the skills and tools they need to create their own success.

The school environment is fully inclusive where children demonstrate open, caring and friendly relationships.

ICT/Digital Technologies

Waikaretu School effectively integrates technology to increase student engagement and achievement. The Board of Trustees has been committed to growing the school's ICT capacity and capabilities in recent years.

SCHOOL BOARD AND PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Parents/Caregivers are a vital part of our school. We have a very active Parent Support Group (PSG). Parents and whānau are involved in many ways including fundraising, coaching and managing school sports teams, and assisting on school trips and school camps.

Parents/Caregivers show a real interest in the learning, progress and achievement of their children. The school's curriculum is designed to assist and prepare students as life-long learners.



Waikaretu School will offer a new principal:

- a diverse range of motivated, interested students
- a school that embraces inclusiveness
- opportunities to be innovative and enterprising
- support for own ongoing professional development
- a motivated, supportive, encouraging School Board of Trustees

STAFFING AND STUDENT ROLL

The start-up student roll for the beginning of Term 1, 2020 is expected to be 28. Staffing includes a teaching-principal supported by a .5 (2.5 days per week) principal release teacher, 1 full-time teacher and a board funded teacher aide.

Waikaretu School has fantastic staff who share a common vision where the learner is placed at the centre of everything. Staff work from an evidence-based platform where discussions are based around improving teaching and programmes for learning. We look to appoint an Office Administrator who is skilled and efficient.

FINANCE, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

The school is in a sound financial position.

Waikaretu School has an impressive property footprint for a small rural school. Ample hard-court and grassed areas provide suitable play-areas. An adventure playground provides students with a range of physical challenges. The school swimming pool is a well-utilised facility during the summer months.

The School Library provides a great boost to the school literacy initiatives. The principal's office, staffroom and school office are all separate spaces and most adequate for purpose.

COMMUNITY

The School community is actively involved with the school. Parents are involved in many ways including fundraising, assisting with grounds maintenance, coaching and managing school sports teams, and assisting on school trips and school camps.

The students are confident and happy in the school environment, and display great trust and affection towards the staff.