

Matarau School Prospectus

*to be valued
to know self
to make choices
to enjoy learning*

Our School

Matarau School is a progressive rural school providing a quality education for around 280 children from years 1 to 8. Our location only 7 minutes from Kamo enables us to combine the best of both a rural and urban education. We have a proud history of success in a wide range of educational domains and a high level of community involvement and good will.

In more specific terms

We are committed to providing a balanced education (which incorporates both basic skills and opportunities for extension in areas of personal ability and interest). We work hard to ensure this occurs in an environment in which children feel safe and where every individual child is valued for their unique disposition and talents.

The board is committed to

- maintaining the special rural character of the school
- keeping class numbers as low as possible (target of 25 per class)
- employing the best possible personnel
- ensuring the centrality of literacy and numeracy
- ensuring that information technology is updated regularly
- ensuring that educational programmes are appropriately resourced

Physical Resources

- 12 well resourced classrooms
- Resource and specialist teaching areas
- A modern well stocked library
- Computerised library issues and search systems
- Modern computers in each classroom with high quality educational software
- Specialist computer suite
- Science laboratory
- Internet access to all classrooms
- Well developed outdoor recreation facilities including full sized sports field, junior and senior adventure playgrounds, sandpit area, basketball court and two tennis courts
- Swimming pool
- School hall / gymnasium

Educational Philosophy

The following principles underpin programmes at Matarau School

- 1) The belief that a positive attitude is the key to success in all that we do.
- 2) That education should have, as its primary aim, independent, self-managed learners who take personal responsibility for their learning and behaviour.
- 3) That education is both an end in itself and a preparation for life beyond school.
- 4) That values instruction is integral to school life.
- 5) That learning is enhanced when there is a partnership between home and school.

In more specific terms our programmes

- Encourage children to be critical and creative thinkers and problem solvers
- Encourage self-management and goal setting within an encouraging and supportive school environment
- Encourage children to work towards personal bests
- Emphasise the importance of basic skills (especially in English and Mathematics)
- Encourage the active involvement of parents in their children's learning
- Offer specialist teaching in a number of learning areas
- Opportunities to develop skills in areas of personal interest.

We also provide

- A Reading Recovery programme
- One to one instruction for children with learning difficulties
- Accelerated and differentiated learning programmes
- An international student programme
- Calf club and home garden programmes
- Participation in interschool sports and academic competitions
- A school dramatic production / school choir in alternate years
- Regular camps and excursions as part of our outdoor education programme
- A venue for private music tuition
- A values education programme

If you would like to join our school family please contact the school directly on **ph/fax (09) 4335-823**.
Matarau Road, RD 1, Kamo.
Or visit our website
www.matarau.school.nz

Matarau School

Prospectus YEARS 7 & 8

*To be valued
To know your worth
To make choices
To enjoy learning*

Introduction

While fully a part of the school we also recognise that the needs of year 7 and 8 children are in some respects unique. We make specific provision for those needs within specially targetted and academically rigorous programmes. This prospectus endeavours to highlight some of the many advantages of year 7 and 8 education at Matarau School. It is by no means exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with the schools general prospectus.

Year 7 & 8s and the full primary school

Our year 7 and 8 programme is based on the National Curriculum. This means that the basic framework for curriculum delivery is prescribed by the Ministry of Education (and audited by the Education Review Office) to ensure that our year 7 and 8 children have programmes not dissimilar to year 7 and 8 children in secondary, area or intermediate schools. In fact it is not uncommon for children in full primary schools to be operating at a higher instructional level than their counterparts in larger schools.

Advantages of a full Primary School

- Education within a safe rural environment comparatively free from the pressures and diversions of a large urban school
- Opportunities to develop leadership attributes as school seniors
- Education in an environment where children feel safe and where individual children are valued for their unique disposition and talents

- Education in a school where these children are already well known by staff. This aids in the quick transfer of relevant information to the receiving teacher. Skills and interests are already known and any potential problems can be dealt with quickly.
- Education within a peer group large enough to develop an age appropriate network of friends, but not so large as to generate many of the problems associated with a large number of early adolescents
- Education within an environment which is closely monitored.

In more specific terms the year 7 and 8 programme at Matarau School offers

- Class numbers substantially lower than in most urban schools. Class numbers are usually in the low twenties enabling more individualized instruction and better access to learning resources.
- A curriculum which combines the best elements of the Cambridge programme and the NZ Curriculum

- Cambridge pathways matched to student needs.
- Specialist teaching in Technology (off site), Digital Technology, Mathematics, English and Science. This ensures that staff have the opportunity to specialize in areas of strength (as occurs in larger schools) and accustoms children to the experience of multiple teachers.
- Instruction in goal setting, time management, study skills and test technique
- Participation in leadership and community services programmes
- Excellent classroom discipline ensuring lessons occur without disruption in a fashion most conducive to effective learning
- Specific programmes tailored for children ages 11 to 13. These include advanced study skills and thinking skills programmes
- Numerous opportunities for extension including ..
.. Science fair / Action learning
.. DeBono Cort Thinking Programme
.. Otago Maths Challenge

- .. International Schools English and Mathematics Competitions
- .. A variety of withdrawal and extension programmes
- Opportunities for individualized monitoring and instruction in areas of need
- Excellent outdoor education and sports programmes
- Secondary school bridging programmes which ensure the best possible preparation for secondary school.
- Staff who are highly accessible and committed to working in close partnership with parents
- A firm commitment to teaching core basic skills in English & Maths
- Opportunities to develop skills in areas of interest

The step to secondary school

We take seriously our responsibility to prepare our seniors for secondary school. We have regular liaison with local secondary schools to help ensure that our seniors are prepared academically and socially for this important step. We undertake an

extensive programme of preparation for secondary school entry tests and have consistently achieved grade averages well above average overall entry levels.

Significant achievements of our Year 7 and 8s

- Excellent year 9 class placements
- A disproportionately high number of former pupils have gone on to achieve exceptionally well in their respective secondary schools
- Exceptional achievements in regional and national science fairs including two national winners and more individual prizes proportionate to our size than any other school
- Exceptional achievement in Australian Schools English and Mathematics Competitions

Physical Resources

- Please see our website or the school's General prospectus.