



## WAIKANAЕ PRIMARY SCHOOL

9 June 2023

**Subject:** Introducing Cohort Entry for 5-Year-Old Children

Kia ora

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Waikanae and Kapakapanui School, we are writing to inform you about an important development in the Waikanae Schools' admission process. We are considering implementing cohort entry for 5-year-old children starting from the beginning of the academic year 2024.

We believe that adopting cohort entry will bring numerous benefits to our students and their families, as well as our schools and your ECE as a whole. Cohort entry refers to the practice of having children of a similar age group start school together at set intervals throughout the year. **In this regard, we are planning to offer two entry points per term, specifically during weeks 1 and 6.**

By introducing cohort entry, we aim to provide a smoother transition for children entering school, promoting a sense of belonging (Whanaungatanga) and familiarity within their peer group. This approach offers a supportive environment for children to form friendships and build social connections with their classmates from the beginning of their educational journey. It also allows for a more structured orientation process, enabling our kaiako/teachers to focus on the specific needs of each cohort and their engagement in learning. A streamline transition gives teachers more time to teach.

Additionally, cohort entry facilitates the development of stronger relationships between parents, whānau, and the school community. By entering school alongside other families, parents and whānau can share their experiences, exchange information, and establish connections that may continue throughout their child's educational years.

Before proceeding with the implementation of cohort entry, we value your input and feedback on this proposal. We kindly request that you share this information with the parents and whānau connected to your Early Childhood Centre, encouraging them to provide any insights, concerns, or suggestions they may have-[click here to provide feedback](#). Their

feedback will play a crucial role in shaping the final decision and ensuring the success of this initiative.

Should you or any of the parents/whānau have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are more than happy to address any concerns or provide additional information.

We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in disseminating this information to your community. The deadline for feedback is **Friday 28 July 2023** We look forward to receiving the valuable insights from parents and whānau as we strive to enhance the educational experience for our students in Waikanae.

Additional information can be found on the Ministry of Education website-[click here](#)

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing the growth and development of our young learners.

Ngā mihi nui

Michelle Fearon and Craig Vidulich

Principal/Tumuaki

On behalf of Board of Trustees Waikanae and Kapakapanui School