



Creative learners, thinkers and communicators who can effectively make a difference

19 November 2019

Tena ra koutou katoa

At Avondale Primary School, we want to inspire our students with the personal values and skills to be life-long learners. We aim to provide outstanding educational opportunities to support effective teaching and learning through provision of excellent work conditions and resources. In doing this we nurture the shared values and beliefs of the school's community.

We are currently categorised as a decile 3 school by the Ministry of Education. With the continued success of Avondale Primary School and growing population in Avondale, we have in place a School enrolment zone and a ballot system for out-of-zone students. We are proud to be a culturally diverse school that reflects our community.

General Information

Community Overview:

Avondale Primary has a wonderful history; we are one of the oldest schools in West Auckland and have a long tradition of providing excellent education to the young people of the area. Avondale Primary School was established in 1882 as a rural school; the site has continued to develop with its community, with a major rebuild of its 14 classroom teaching blocks in 1971 and the addition of relocatable classrooms as required to meet the growing needs. All classrooms are networked. There are two open learning blocks, and a separate administration block. The hall, with a kitchen, toilets and a deck, is utilized by the community as a space to gather and celebrate, along with pre-, post- and holiday programmes. We are a multicultural school in the heart of the Avondale community and feel very proud of our teachers and students and the great work achieved here. We have a strong belief that success in a school requires full involvement from everybody who has a stake in improving learning for our tamariki. This is signified in our school logo of a red triangle which represents the partnership between staff parents and students. The colour red is significant because of the brilliant pohutukawa flowers which surround our grounds in summer. And we love the Avondale spider, our very own pungawerewere!

School Way of life:

At Avondale Primary School, we want to equip our students with the personal values and skills to be life-long learners and continual improvers. We aim to provide excellent educational opportunities to support effective teaching and learning. We aim to provide staff and students with excellent work conditions and resources and in doing this, nurture the shared values and beliefs of the school's community. Avondale Primary School is a state primary school from Year 1 to 6. Students are drawn from an ethnically diverse local community located in Avondale, Auckland. The growing school roll comprises 22 percent Māori and 16 percent New Zealand European/Pākehā. There are large numbers of Pacific, Indian, Middle Eastern and Asian students.

Many students are from multi-language backgrounds. Our August 2019 ERO report celebrates our achievements over the previous three years.

OUR VISION

Creative learners, thinkers and communicators who can effectively make a difference.

OUR MISSION

To achieve this vision, we will:

- actively seek and incorporate the voice of the child;
- foster the engagement of all learners and teachers;
- welcome and celebrate the diversity of our learning community by maintaining positive connections and partnership between learners, staff, whanau and the wider community;
- support learners to use existing and new technologies as tools to support their learning;
- support learners to be effective thinkers who make meaning, gain understandings and apply and transfer learning to new situations;
- create or provide powerful, relevant and memorable learning experiences;
- maintain a relevant local curriculum that is responsive to learners' needs, interests and talents;
- support teachers in becoming ongoing effective and reflective practitioners.

The image we share of a successful future learner is a student with a strong sense of values and personal identity, confident to take the risks necessary to continue learning. We want our students to be equipped not only with the foundation skills of literacy and numeracy, but also with a range of future-oriented attributes, including confidence with information and communication technology. The learning experiences the school provides, often based around our school values and virtues, need to ensure students keep this image in mind. We believe that helping students to have faith in their own ability will be the best guarantee for them to achieve future success.

We value:

- Positive relationships
- Acceptance of cultural diversity
- Recognition of individual differences
- Respect for self, others and property
- Continual improvement and life-long learning

Our School Values:

Respect / whakaute

Honesty / pono-nga

Tolerance / tuku-mārie

Resilience / manawaroa
tapatahi

Creativity / waihanga-tanga

Integrity / ngākau-

We continue to develop our commitment to being a sustainable school and in 2016 we achieved the Auckland City Council Wastewise Award for our composting and recycling programme.

School Resources:

There are desktop computers, iPads, Chromebook and Apple TV operational in all rooms and we continue to grow our resources to support learning. 2017 brought the opportunity for students to bring their own devices with two trial classes also being established. Wireless technology has been installed in the school for ease of access and flexibility. All teachers have their own laptop computers.

School Organisation:

The senior leadership team consists of an experienced principal, an associate principal and a deputy principal. Together with the board of trustees, we focus on enhancing opportunities to promote and improve student progress and achievement.

We have four team leaders who have responsibilities including student assessment and evaluation, curriculum delivery and pedagogy, and regular in-class support. Each teacher is a member of a team of three or four teachers at a similar year group level under the guidance of a team leader. We have six teacher aides who are timetabled to support the work of students and teachers. A Te Reo Tutor delivers a variety of opportunities for our tamariki, including Kapa Haka, two days a week. Reading Support Teachers work 0.8 and an English Language teacher is full-time. An attached clinic houses two Resource Teachers: Literature (RT:Lit) and two Reading Recovery Tutors, which provide opportunities for specialist input as they services all schools in the wider community.

Our cluster:

Our involvement in the Patiki Cluster has strengthened the collaboration between schools in the local area. This initiative supports a focus on transition processes and shared understandings of the needs of the wider community. Professional relationships have formed across this cluster and are based on trust. There is no reason to be anything but open and honest. We recognise shared principles and practises rather than focussing on prescriptive drivers. Within this process we facilitate shared staff meetings, Board information evenings and extending learning programmes for our students using the strengths of curriculum lead teachers.

The following are a range of successful programmes the school values:

- Positive Behaviour for Learning, including The Incredible Years
- Mutukaroa
- Reading together
- Peer Mediation
- Peer tutoring
- EOTC
- Year 5-6 camp
- ESOL programmes run by our amazing learning assistants
- Environmental programmes to enhance the environment and the community
- Music specialist – one day a week focus on performance groups across the cultures
- Sports co-ordinator – three days a week focus on professional development, extension groups and co-ordinating inter-school events
- Our social worker and the relationship the staff have with this person.