



WAIKĀIA SCHOOL

NURTURE, ENRICH, INSPIRE

We are kind / We are responsible / We do our Best

13th March 2025

Dear Whānau,

The children are well into their academic journey for the year, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning. They are engaged in their lessons, showing curiosity, and making steady progress across all areas. Their positive attitude and willingness to challenge themselves are setting the foundation for a successful year ahead. Keep up the great work, tamariki!

Three of our students—Alfie Gunton, Byron Leti, and Owen Bradley—represented our school at the Northern Athletics Meeting last week. They put in fantastic performances, with a few close 4th and 5th place finishes.

A special congratulations to Byron Leti, who won the Long Jump and placed 3rd in the 100-metre sprint! His outstanding results have earned him a spot in the Southland Primary Schools' Athletics Championships this weekend. We wish Byron the very best of luck—go for gold!

[Massey University Survey](#)

Our school is involved in a government wellbeing initiative called Healthy Active Learning. Part of the Child Youth and Wellbeing Strategy, it has supported over 900 schools like ours to improve the wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi through healthy eating and drinking, and quality physical activity. To help understand its impact, Massey University wants to hear about how your tamariki participate in physical activity and healthy eating and drinking at our school and in our community. This survey is about your tamaiti/tamariki (child/children) aged 5 to 13 years. It aims to understand how they experience physical activity and Health and PE at kura or school. It also asks about their opportunities to be physically active in their community. They have put together a survey which takes 5-10 minutes and, on completion, puts you in the draw to win a \$100 supermarket voucher.

Your participation in this survey towards our understanding and amplification of wellbeing in schools through physical activity is greatly appreciated.



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ATTENDANCE:

Further to my message last week, please see the MoE information regarding attendance and reporting on attendance.

More information on attendance, including your rights and responsibilities as parents or caregivers, is available on the Ministry of Education's webpage: [Attendance](#).

Ngā mihi,
Phillipus Gerber

Stepped Attendance Response – STAR

Responding to all absences



The Government's target is for **80% of students to attend regularly**, that is to attend school more than **90% of the time**.

GOOD
Good chance of success

WORRYING
Less chance of success

CONCERNING
Hard to make progress

SERIOUS CONCERN
Very hard to make progress

Step Progression:

less than 5 days absent in that term

Step Progression:

less than 10 days absent in that term

Step Progression:

less than 15 days absent in that term

Less than 5 days absence
in a school term

Up to 10 days absence
in a school term

Up to 15 days absence
in a school term

15 days or more of absence
in a school term

53% of students
438,000

26% of students
213,000

11% of students
88,000

10% of students
84,000



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Stepped Attendance Response – STAR

Responding to all absences



The Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) sets expectations for school, student, parent/guardian, Ministry of Education and broader system responses to student absence.

It provides a series of activities that should be considered when students meet absence thresholds. The actions taken will be tailored to the reasons for absence, for example a student with a chronic illness will require tailored supports for their education.

The activities include considering prosecution for absences if appropriate support is offered and not taken up.

Day-to-day operations

Schools:

- Assess attendance history of new students and share attendance history when students move between schools.
- Survey students and parents to support effective teaching practice and engagement
- School Leadership and Boards actively minimise disruptions to the school day and week e.g. use callback days, parent teacher meetings held after school
- Support students to continue learning if unable to attend school every day, including using Ministry approved well-being or transitional plans, or health schools where appropriate.

Ministry of Education:

- Convene termly meetings for leaders from local schools and relevant agencies to discuss students with serious attendance concerns where a multi-agency response is required
- Prepares templated materials for schools to adapt and use to promote or respond to attendance
- Provide attendance data reports for individual schools and Kāhui Ako
- Provide schools with a regularly updated list of agencies that schools can work with to support students
- Contract supports and services that are effective at returning students to regular attendance (e.g. Attendance Service)

Less than 5 days absence in a school term

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Ensure student attends every day they are able
- Reinforce good attendance habits
- Support other parents to reinforce good attendance habits
- Open communication with school
- Follow school attendance management plan and associated policies and processes

SCHOOLS

- Clear communication to parents on attendance expectations on enrolment, at the start of school year, and each term
- Communicate to parents what steps the school will take in the event their child is absent from school
- Communicate good attendance habits to students and parents
- Monitor attendance
- Communicate to parents about every absence
- Maintain contact details of parents
- Provide students with regular updates on their own attendance
- Report regularly to parents on attendance of their child
- Support students getting to school
- Use school level approaches to promote good social and learning environment

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- Monitor that schools have their attendance policy and attendance management plan on website and it is reviewed as required
- Monitor aggregate data and attendance patterns to identify challenges and opportunities at regional and national levels
- Maintain regular contact with schools and support policy development and interventions/supports
- Support schools to be inclusive and safe

53% of students. 438,000

Up to 10 days absence in a school term

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Return student to regular attendance
- Contact school to discuss reasons for absence
- Support student to catch up on missed learning
- Engage in supports offered

SCHOOLS

- Send formal notification and contact parent/guardian to discuss reasons for absence
- Support students to catch up missed learning where required
- Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers e.g. counselor, 2nd hand uniform shop, PB4L

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- Support school with formal notification where required

26% of students. 213,000





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Stepped Attendance Response – STAR

Responding to all absences



Up to 15 days absence in a school term

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Return student to regular attendance
- Attend meeting at the school to analyse reasons for absence and to collaborate on a support plan
- Implement strategies at home

SCHOOLS

- Send escalated formal notification to parents
- Hold meeting to analyse reasons for absence and to collaborate on a support plan
- Develop and implement a plan tailored to the reasons and circumstances around the child's absence
- Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers and request support from Ministry or other agencies as needed

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- Identify schools with a significant proportion of students at amber level and offer additional support
- Facilitate multi-agency response and support school to implement and monitor improvement plan
- Promote resources and services to support schools to return students to regular attendance
- Identify and respond to localised barriers
- Monitor regional interventions
- Facilitate involvement of other agencies.
- Reprioritise regional support resources to where most needed/effective
- Develop new initiatives/policies if needed
- Support parent/guardian and school to resolve conflict if needed

11% of students. 88,000

Plus
previous
responses



15 days or more absence in a school term

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Return student to regular attendance
- Engage in improvement plan
- Participate in regular meetings

SCHOOLS

- Send warning notice and make contact to arrange meeting with parents
- Escalate to multi-agency response
- Participate in multi-agency response
- Implement and monitor improvement plan
- Undertake school-led prosecution, or request Ministry-led prosecution, when considered appropriate if supports are offered and not taken up.
- Unenrol students who will not be returning to school

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- Identify schools with a significant proportion of students at red level and offer additional support
- Facilitate multi-agency response and support school to implement and monitor improvement plan
- Provide direct support to parents where required
- Coordinate regional response where required
- Consider system-wide initiatives for high-risk attendance
- Undertake Ministry-led prosecution when considered appropriate if supports are offered and not taken up, when requested by schools
- Work with the Attendance Service to re-enrol students who are not enrolled

10% of students. 84,000

Plus
previous
responses





[Home and School AGM + Meeting Wednesday March 26th 7.30pm](#)

Agenda - Pea Straw deliveries

Cross country - Start of term 2

[Community Update – Waikaia Forest Trails](#)

Hi everyone, we're excited to update you on the Waikaia Forest Trails! The trust has been working hard to make McKee Park the official trail entrance. In early February, Graded Earth arrived to finish the first loop and two-way connector trail, and we're on track to finish by mid-April. We'll announce the opening date once all regulations are met. Next week, the Southern Rural Riders group will test the trails to ensure they are fit for purpose - but they're not open to the public yet. Follow us on social media for updates and photos. Thanks for your patience and support!

Waikaia Trails Trust



FASHION THROUGH THE AGES



**SATURDAY
MARCH 29
7.00PM
\$35**

WAIKAIA CHARITY FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA & AUCTION

Waikaia Recreation Centre | Wylam Street, Waikaia

Tickets \$35 and includes fashion show,
entertainment and platters. Cash bar available



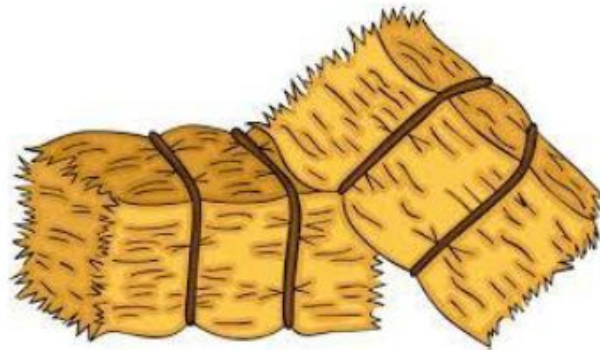
For Tickets: Phone Anita Williamson 022-362-1155 | Email: waikaiafashion@gmail.com | Visit Waikaia Commercial Hotel



WAIKAIA SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

PEASTRAW FOR SALE

\$10 per bale



Pre order now for mid-March delivery or pick up

Conventional small sized bales

Text or call Tessa 0274268207

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO WAIKAIA HOME AND SCHOOL