



Thorndon School Te Kura o Pipitea

An inclusive space that fosters resilient, collaborative learners and creators.

Information Pack

2021





VISION STATEMENT

An inclusive space that fosters resilient, collaborative learners and creators.

VALUES

Our values are used to guide the school in all its activities.

Creativity/Innovation – developing innovation, inquiry, and curiosity, by thinking critically, creatively, and reflectively.

Excellence – by aiming high and by persevering or adapting in the face of difficulties.

Working Together – being honest, responsible, and accountable and acting ethically.

Inclusion – welcoming diversity, seeking equity (through fairness and social justice), participating in community for the common good.

Respect for the Environment – pursuing ecological sustainability, which includes knowledge of and care for the environment.

TREATY OF WAITANGI STATEMENT

We are committed to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi – partnership, protection, and participation – and recognise the unique status of Maori as tangata whenua within an increasingly diverse Aotearoa New Zealand.

This means:

- We will support the development of a culturally competent teaching staff.
- We will partner with whanau to improve and enrich the educational experiences and outcomes of our students.
- We will respect and promote te reo me nga tikanga Maori.
- We will recognise the role of mana whenua in the Pipitea area.



Thorndon Primary is a medium-sized inner city school with a long history, having been first established as a church school in 1852. Since then the school and the surrounding area have been through many changes. In the early part of last century Thorndon was the largest school in the city, and for a while housed the Teachers Training College. By the early 1990s the roll was down to under 100 but steady growth since then has meant that in 2002 an enrolment scheme had to be put in place to manage the roll. Demand for places in the school continues to grow.

In 2011 Kimi Ora School, across the road on Turnbull Street, was relocated and we were provided with that site. Consequently, we have increased our footprint which has provided additional space for our growing student population to spread out to learn and play. In 2012 we took over the GSE building on Hobson Crescent and redeveloped it as a classroom for our new entrants.

In spite of its relatively small size the school enjoys good facilities, with two small grassed playing fields and a sealed netball/basketball court. We also have access to the much larger fields at Wellington Girls' College for organised sports activities. During the summer the children swim at Thorndon Pool. In 1999 a hall was donated to the school and moved onto our field. While this reduced play space, the benefits of having a hall far outweighed any negatives. This hall, the Old St Paul's Schoolroom, has some historic links with the school, having been moved here from the original school site in Kate Shepherd Place. It is also, reputedly, the setting for the Katherine Mansfield short story, "Her First Ball".

Over the period from 2017 to 2019, the school was completely rebuilt on account of the impact of leaky cladding from a previous development. At this time the opportunity was taken to reconsider the way in which teaching and learning are delivered. The decision was made to rebuild the school using a 'learning studio' based approach. From a school of twelve classes, Thorndon/Te Kura o Pipitea became a school of four studios: Te Kākanō (Year 1 & 2), Te Pihinga (Year 3 & 4), Te Māhuri (Year 5 & 6) and Te Kōhure (Year 7 & 8).

These large, flexible spaces are designed for collaborative teaching and learning. Three teachers work together within each studio as a team, taking responsibility for the learning of a proportionately larger group of students.



One of the major resources for the school is the city itself, and we are within walking distance of such places as Parliament, the City Library, the waterfront, theatres, the Michael Fowler Centre, the National Library and, for older children, Te Papa. Many other places of interest can be reached with a short ride by public transport. Groups of children occasionally attend lunchtime concerts at Old St Pauls and St Andrews on the Terrace as well as going to view exhibitions at the City Gallery and at Te Papa. The school is also within easy walking distance of the Railway Station and the bus terminal.



ORGANISATION

The school is organised into four teams.

1. Tui (Year 1/2)
2. Kereru (Year 3/4)
3. Kakapo (Year 5/6)
4. Kea (Year 7/8)

Each team has three teachers; one team leader and two other teachers. All three teachers are responsible for the assessment and planning for and teaching of all the students in their team. Each child however, will be allocated a specific 'pastoral care' teacher who is the "go to" person for any parent concerns.

If you have a concern about your child's learning or wellbeing, the pastoral care teacher is the first person you should contact. If this does not resolve the situation, please contact the team leader.

The new studio spaces also have their own names, gifted to us by our Maori whanau. The names of these spaces are:

Te Kākano (Seed) Year 1/2 studio;
Te Pihinga (Young Plant) Year 3/4 studio;
Te Māhuri (Young Tree, Sapling) Year 5/6 studio; and
Te Kōhure (Mature Tree) Year 7/8 studio.

**LOCATION**

The school is situated in the heart of Wellington, within easy walking distance of the railway station and the bus terminal, close to many Government offices and near the motorway. Many of our parents work in the central Wellington area.

SIZE

The school is still small enough to be a place where everyone can know everyone else and a family atmosphere can be developed. This is something we work hard to maintain.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We run one of the largest After School Care programmes in Wellington. This is available daily within the school grounds between the hours of 3:00pm and 6:00pm at a very reasonable cost. Holiday programmes are run from the school.

MULTI CULTURAL

The school population is varied with about 14% Maori, 6% Pasifika, 30% Asian, 45% European and about 5% from other ethnic and cultural groups.

FULL PRIMARY

Many parents see full primary schools, which go up to Year 8, as an attractive alternative to Intermediate schools.



GENERAL INFORMATION

At Thorndon School we value our diverse community. Our students and their families are culturally, ethnically, socio-economically and educationally diverse. This has not hindered the development of a close relationship between the school and its client group. We enjoy a very supportive parent community. Maintaining and building on this will continue to be an area of focus.

We try to hold a number of social events during the year, involving parents, staff and children. This has become a little more difficult in recent years as numbers have increased but we intend to persevere. These events are an opportunity for parents and staff to meet socially and in the past few years have been most successful. Early in the year we hold an informal Meet the Teacher barbecue at which parents can meet their child's new teacher.

Each year the school organises and runs the Thorndon Fair. This fair, which is the largest street fair in Wellington, has become an established part of the city's calendar. It is the school's major fund raising activity and because of the size of the event we try to get all parents involved in some way.

Because the school is still relatively small it is possible for staff to know most of the children and there is a great deal of interaction among the different age groups at the school. The size of the school makes it possible to maintain a relaxed, family type of atmosphere and this is encouraged. We see ourselves as a village where everyone contributes to the wellbeing of our students.

We welcome parents into the school and encourage parent help on trips, in classrooms, in the library and with the curriculum.

Children at Thorndon are encouraged to become risk takers, to develop independent learning skills, to take responsibility for their own learning and to ask questions.

We have a strong commitment to the arts and children have many opportunities to participate in activities in the performing arts and the visual arts.

We welcome enquiries from interested parents and are happy for children and parents to visit the school.



NEW PEDAGOGIES FOR DEEP LEARNING (NPDL)

From 2020-2022, Thorndon School will be participating in the NPDL programme. This is an international programme which operates in eight countries: New Zealand, Finland, Netherlands, Canada, Uruguay, Australia, United States of America and Hong Kong. The programme was developed by educationalist, Michael Fullan.

This programme aligns closely with our vision, strategic priorities, school pedagogy and local curriculum. We view this programme as offering a set of tracks that will keep us on course, maintaining and extending our direction.

NPDL focuses on developing six key future skills, which Michael Fullan has called "The Six C's":

- Character Education.
- Citizenship.
- Communication.
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving.
- Collaboration.
- Creativity and Imagination.

To find out more about this programme visit the NPDL site: npdl.global.



ATTACHED UNITS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

The school has an attached Literacy Centre staffed by a Resource Teacher of Literacy. This centre, which caters for children who have failed to make expected progress in reading through the normal classroom programme, can be accessed by 32 schools in the northern suburbs. The RT:Lit, Athena London, takes children for 1-1 tuition at the clinic as well as working in other schools in the catchment area. She also assists classroom teachers in setting up programmes for these children. While the RT:Lit is not exclusively a Thorndon School staff member we have a close working relationship and can call on her for advice and assistance.

Reading Recovery operates in the school for 6 year old children who have not progressed at the same rate as their peers in acquiring reading skills. Ministry of Education funding pays for some of this programme but most of the hours are funded by the school.

Since 2015 we have had a Mandarin Learning Assistant based at the school for three days a week. This is organised in conjunction with the Confucius Institute.

We employ a team of kapa haka teachers to work with our junior and senior kapa haka groups on a weekly basis. Te Reo Maori is taught by the class teachers.

The school belongs to the Central Cluster for the Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour Service and is able to call on the services of specialists to help teachers meet the needs of children with moderate learning or behavioural needs.



AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The After School Care programme is one of the largest in Wellington and runs every school day from 3:00pm until 6:00pm. On days when the school closes early the programme generally runs from the earlier time. If this is not going to happen parents are informed.

The programme is OSCAR approved and parents who qualify may receive a subsidy for After School Care from WINZ. Programme staff are able to advise on this.

The children are given afternoon tea and have plenty of activities and equipment to become involved with.

The programme has never been seen as an extension of school and for this reason the activities are not academic. There is a lot of creative activity and outside play. Our belief has always been that children have been at school for 6 hours or more and that, while they might still be on the school grounds, they should be engaged in something different from their school programme.

The senior supervisor is Alice Vale. The programme is staffed at a ratio of 1 supervisor to 10 children.

Costs are \$75.00 per week or \$18.00 per day for casual users.

A late fee may be charged if children are picked up after 6:00pm

Payment for After School Care is made following invoice from the school.

A school holiday programme is run from the school during the four main holiday breaks. This programme runs from 8:00am until 6:00pm and details are given in the school newsletter.

There may also, from time to time, be a number of other after school and holiday activities on offer unrelated to the school's ASC programme. These include Art classes, Music classes and Language classes and details will be given in the newsletter.

The phone number for both the After School Programme and the Holiday Programme is 022 192 8699.



THORNDON SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021

Alexander Brown (Chairperson)

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Alistair du Chatenier (Principal)

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STAFF LIST 2021

Alistair du Chatenier	Principal
Matt Boucher	Deputy Principal
Dawn Pollard	Team Leader Tui
Lata Govind	Teacher
Hanlie Greyling	Teacher
Tash Lassally	Acting Team Leader Kereru
Chelsea Rudd	Teacher
Korrie Hodes	Teacher
Adele Connor-Wills	Teacher (Part-Time)
Jason Trenberth	Team Leader Kakapo
Lucy Brownlee	Teacher
Ren Kirshenbuam	Teacher
Angela Rongonui	Team Leader Kea
Tanya Kotze	Teacher
Matt Witty	Teacher
Andrew Pennell	Teacher (Music)
Rosalie Hill	Teacher (Part-Time)
Niamh King	Teacher (Part-Time)
Leah Reid	Teacher (Study Leave 2021)
Ursula Inta	Teacher (Study Leave 2021)



Athena London	Resource Teacher: Literacy
Helen Garside Mainwaring	ESOL Support Teacher (Part-Time)
Hela Isaac	Office Manager
Julie Prout	Accounts Manager
Vacant	Librarian (Part-Time)
Pete Braddock	Groundsman/Caretaker (Part-Time)
Heather Tran	Teacher Aide (Tui)
Kim Millar-Hughes	Teacher Aide (Kereru)
Merrick Keenan	Teacher Aide (Kakapo)
Bhavna Panchal	Teacher Aide (Kea)
Alice Vale	After School Care Senior Supervisor



Term Dates 2021

Term 1

Wednesday, 3 February
Monday, 8 February
Friday, 2 April
Monday, 5 April
Tuesday, 6 April
Friday, 16 April

School opens (9.00 am)
School closed – Waitangi Day
School closed – Good Friday
School closed – Easter break
School closed – Easter break
Term ends (3:00 pm)

Term 2

Monday, 3 May
Friday, 4 June
Monday, 7 June
Friday, 25 June
Friday, 9 July

School opens (9.00 am)
School closed - Teacher Only Day
School closed - Queen's Birthday
School closed – Teacher Only Day
Term ends (3:00pm)

Term 3

Monday, 26 July
Friday, 1 October

School opens (9.00 am)
Term ends (3:00pm)

Term 4

Monday, 18 October
Friday, 22 October
Monday, 25 October
Friday, 12 November
Sunday, 5 December
Thursday, 16 December

School opens (9.00 am)
School closed – Teacher Planning Day
School closed – Labour Day
School closed – Teacher Only Day
Thorndon Fair
School Year ends (12:00pm)