



Briefing Note: Visit to Westbridge Residential School [4157]

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education		
Date:	2 August 2023	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1315251
Drafter:	Johan Rall	DDI:	09 487 1132
Key Contact:	Jess Robertson	DDI:	09 487 1145
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Briefing Note

The purpose of this paper is to support your visit to Westbridge Residential School in Massey on Friday 4th August.

Proactive Release

Agree that the Ministry of Education release this briefing once it has been considered by you,
9(2)(h)

Agree / Disagree

Tanya Harvey
Director of Education
Te Tai Raro | Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata

02/08/2023

Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister of Education

04/08/2023

Westbridge Residential School [4157]

Contact Name: Reuben Aitoa-Ilaoa (Acting Principal)
(At institution) 9(2)(a)

Address: 488E Don Buck Road
Royal Hights
Waitakere

Key People

Acting Principal: Reuben Aitoa-Ilaoa
Phone Number 9(2)(a)

Ministry Officials: Tanva Harvev: Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata Director
9(2)(a)

Jess Robertson: Manager Integrated Services
9(2)(a)

Profile Information

Authority	State
School Type	Special School
School Gender	Co-Educational
Education Medium	English
Equity Index Rating	549
Electorate	Kaipara ki Mahurangi
Te Mahau Region	Tāmaki Herenga Tangata

The July 2022 breakdown of roll information by ethnicity is shown below:

July 2022 Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
Māori	1	20%
Pacific	1	20%
Asian	0	0%
Other ethnicity	1	20%
European/Pākehā	2	40%
International	0	0%
Total	5	100%

Westbridge Residential School Context

1. Westbridge staff have been trained in 'Ukeru' (<https://www.ukerusystems.com/>). The Ukero philosophy of 'comfort versus control' is the day-to-day application of Ukeru. More importantly, it is a system that avoids the use of physical restraint on tamariki.

This means that relationships between tamariki and kaimahi are preserved and strengthened in an environment of support and care.

Education Review Office

2. The school was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in 2019. The leadership team and ERO agree that for sustained improvement and future learner success, priorities for further development are in:
 - sharing experience and knowledge to promote greater consistency across the school and to contribute to the school culture.
 - reviewing the school's vision for teaching and learning to establish a curriculum that promotes student engagement, independence, and readiness to reintegrate into mainstream schools.
 - strengthening cultural responsiveness to promote identity, language and culture for Māori students and bicultural perspectives of Aotearoa New Zealand for all students.
 - ensuring there are robust plans in place to cater for the anticipated roll increase so that high quality outcomes can be expected for all students.
 - strengthening internal evaluation to determine the effectiveness of decisions made and the impact of programmes, initiatives, and interventions on positive outcomes for students. (ERO will provide an internal evaluation workshop for trustees and senior leaders.)

Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning

3. The school belongs to Tiriwa Kāhui Ako.

Learning Support

4. The school is part of the Tiriwa / Cluster 5 RTLB cluster, which has been allocated 7 Learning Support Coordinators (LSC).
5. There are no LSCs based at the school.

Participation in government programmes

School Donations Scheme

6. The school opted-in to the School Donations Scheme for 2022 and has opted-in for 2023. The school received \$925 (incl. GST) in lieu of donations in 2022, and \$1,063.43 (incl GST) in 2023 based on the July roll return.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

7. The school is not participating in the programme.

Ikura | Manaakitia te whare tangata – Period products in schools initiative

8. The school not participating in the programme.

Creatives in Schools

9. The school did not apply for Round 1 or 2 of the Creatives in Schools projects.

Property

10. Four teaching spaces and four residential cottages for students living on site.

The private right of way driveway to the school is in a poor condition. The driveway is not council maintained and is used by 10 parcels of land used as lifestyle blocks. It was built (40 years ago) and resurfaced (20 years ago) by MoE. A request for funding for an additional condition assessment is yet to be approved as part of their new 10YPP which will begin development in the next months. Our land acquisitions team have also been in discussions with council as to whether they would potentially take over the road as they are planning a new development across the road from the school.

Some damage from the January floods occurred to one of the residential cottages, and the documents to access the approved funds to repair was sent to the Ministry on 19th July. They have completed some additional drainage work to the same area to help prevent future flooding.

All other previous 10YPP projects have been completed, including the creation of a sensory room. Their SIP funding was spent on an artificial turf and staff bathroom refurbishment.

Other known risks or issues

9(2)(h)



Proactive Release

13. It is recommended that this Briefing Note is proactively released, with any information needing to be withheld done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

The following are annexed to this paper:

Annex 1: Run Sheet

Annex 1: Run Sheet

Time	Activity	Other details
2pm	Minister Tinetti arrives and is greeted by Deb Ross and Reuben Aitoa-Ilaoa	<i>Note: Principal Dave Bagwell is on compassionate leave.</i>
2:10pm – 2:30pm	Brief tour of the school	
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Discussion with Upper Harbour Principals on special education and supporting their learners within the state school system.	

Proactively Released