

Briefing Note: Visit to Whanganui High School

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education		
Date:	28 February 2023	Priority:	Low / Medium / High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1305404
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes / No	Round Robin:	Yes / No

Proactive Release

1. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

Agree / Disagree



Jocelyn Mikaere
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tai Whenua
(Central)

28/02/2023



Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister of Education

03/03/2023

Purpose of Briefing Note

1. The purpose of this paper is to support your visit to Whanganui High School in Whanganui on 3 March 2023. This meeting was at the invitation of the office of Steph Lewis, Member of Parliament for Whanganui. The visit is part of the scheduled events for the International Women's Day breakfast.
2. We were also asked to provide options for a visit between 1 and 2 pm. We would suggest either 'Love and Learn' on Hakeke Street, Whanganui or Mosston Primary School, on Mosston Road, Whanganui. We have not contacted either organisation.

Core School Information

Whanganui High School 189

Contact Name: Carol Molan
(At institution) 06 349 0178

Address: Purnell Street
Whanganui

Key People

Principal: Martin McAllen
9(2)(a)

Ministry Officials: Rae Karipa, Manager Education
Clyde Piercy, Student Achievement Function Practitioner (SAF)

Profile Information

Authority	State School
School Type	Secondary School Year 9-13
School Gender	Co-educational
Education Medium	English
Equity Index Rating	479
Electorate	Whanganui
Te Mahau Region	Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatū (TWM)

The provisional 2023 year breakdown of roll information by ethnicity is shown below:

February Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
Māori	381	27
Pacific	30	2
Asian	77	5
Other ethnicity	10	1
European/Pākehā	916	65
Total	1414¹	100%

¹ Includes 13 International full fee-paying students

School

3. Whanganui High School has traditionally been the school of choice in Whanganui for the last twenty years, with a peak roll of 1794 students in 2009. The school roll has steadily declined since, following the demographic pattern for Whanganui. The school remains significantly larger than any of the other local schools. Therefore, they can offer a larger range of extra curricula activities and have a reputation for supporting academic students and pathways to tertiary study.
4. Whanganui High School has Year 9 to 11 cohorts of between 310 and 350 students. On average 90 to 120 students achieve University Entrance, and 216 (2022) to 290 (2021) achieve NCEA level 2 (2021-2022).

Education Review Office

5. The school was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in 2019 where they recommended that the school priorities, for sustained improvement and future learner success, are:
 - the analysis and use of student achievement information to directly inform teacher practice
 - internal evaluation to fully understand the effectiveness of recent changes in organisational structures and systems
 - supporting and incorporating te ao Māori to promote students' language, culture and identity.

Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning

6. The school belongs to Takitini Hauora Kāhui Ako, a grouping of three Kāhui Ako connected by a common mission. This collaborative is in partnership with Whanganui Iwi.

"Our collective drive to maintain a focus on effective transitions and pathways for students and whānau through all sectors of learning in Whanganui anchored on the foundation of Hauora.

Takitini Hauora Kāhui Ako members have indicated they support and expect to actively develop and implement 'effective transitions' that deliver positive learning, achievement opportunities, and experiences of success. Tamariki and whānau are interconnected and essential alongside our education places to offer and assure trusting and appropriate transitions".
7. While some positive relationships have been formed and processes developed, there has yet to be a significant impact on student attendance and achievement.

Learning Support

8. Whanganui High School currently has eight students which have been verified onto the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS). These students attend Te Atawhai, a special needs unit situated within the school, and all students have individualised programmes which are supported by the teaching team based in Te Atawhai.
9. The Takitini Hauora Kāhui Ako has not been allocated Learning Support Coordinators (LSC).

10. The school is experiencing increasing numbers of students presenting with additional learning needs, with anxiety being a common thread. The school has yet to develop internal systems and processes to effectively meet the needs of some of these students.

Alternative Education contract

11. Whanganui High School will be the fund holder for Alternative Education for the next five years. The school have joined in partnership with Te Puna Maturanga o Whanganui for co-governance and shared decision-making. Te Puna Maturanga o Whanganui and Whanganui High School will lead a co-governance group consisting of iwi and enrolling schools to oversee the work of alternative education provision in Whanganui.
12. Whanganui YMCA has been contracted to provide alternative education for the 2023 school year.

Participation in government programmes

School Donations Scheme

13. The school has opted-in to the School Donations scheme.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

14. The school is ineligible for the programme.

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

15. The school has opted-in to the programme.

Creatives in Schools

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

Impact of COVID-19

17. Whanganui High School were well placed to manage the COVID-19 pandemic as they had well established digital learning platforms and access for all students to digital devices. The school received additional funding of \$37,125 in 2020 to support students' attendance and engagement on-line

Property

18. Overall, the condition of the school property is fair. The school's roll has declined, and the school is showing a surplus of ten teaching spaces (based on the July 2022 roll).
19. The school's ten-year property plan was approved in 2020 with a substantial budget unspent from the previous cycle. The school has been diligently progressing projects over the last two and a half years and has addressed roofing and site wide infrastructure projects.
20. The school is planning a major 5YA project to refurbish six classrooms in block F, with a budget of \$900,000.

Other known risks or issues

21. Whanganui High School faces significant challenges to improve student attendance and achievement for a significant group of students. Māori student attendance and achievement is significantly lower than non-Māori. In term 3, 2020, only 29% of Māori

students were attending regularly compared to 43% of European/Pākehā. The number of students chronically absent in Term 3, 2022 was 19% compared to 29% of Māori who were chronically absent.

22. The number of Māori students who were enrolled and achieved University Entrance was 25% (16 students in 2022) compared to 47% for non-Māori (89 students). The number of Māori students achieving NCEA level 2 has reduced from 75% (83 students) in 2019 to 52% (41 students) in 2022.

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