

23/01/2024

Tēnā koe

OIA: 1320678 – One hour of reading, writing, and maths

Thank you for your email of 19 December 2023 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1. What percentage of primary schools in NZ in each of the following years - 2021, 2022 and 2023 - allowed mobile phones to be used in class during classroom time for non-emergency purposes? If these statistics are not kept, what evidence did the Minister of Education use to base her decision on to ban mobile phones in primary schools?*
- 2. Can you please provide more information as to the guidelines/requirements your government has now provided to schools about what the new 1 hour reading, writing and maths for years 0-8 needs to look like? If there are no guidelines/directions or any information provided to schools is it just up to the schools to interpret and deliver this policy how they see fit?*
- 3. How will your government know the 1 hour of maths, reading and writing is actually being done by schools?*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

As advised in our letter to you on 10 January 2024, the **first part** of your request was transferred to the Office of the Minister of Education.

Regarding the **second part** of your request, the Government has set a clear expectation that all year 0-8 students should receive an hour a day for each of reading, writing and maths. This will be expected to be implemented in schools from Term 1, 2024. Dedicated daily teaching has been shown to lift student progress when coupled with a high-quality curriculum taught using evidence-informed teaching practices. Details of this policy along with practical guidance and supports which are available can be found on our website at the following link:

<https://tahurangi.education.govt.nz/one-hour-a-day>

Regarding the **third part** of your request, the Education Review Office (ERO) will review and report on compliance with the reading, writing, and maths teaching time requirements through the Board Assurance processes. This process requires boards of state, state-integrated schools and kura,

and managers of private schools to provide assurance they are meeting the new obligations. This is then validated by ERO during school visits. If concerns about compliance are flagged, ERO will follow up with the board and the school's leadership. Schools will be supported by regional Ministry staff to make the appropriate adjustments to their teaching and learning programme so they can enact the policy.

Please note, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Pauline Cleaver
Acting Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Poutāhū (Curriculum Centre)