

Catchment description

The Grey catchment is within the Grey District on the West Coast of the South Island. The main town on the western edge of the catchment is Greymouth, with schooling stretching as far north as Barrytown, as far south as Kumara and as far east as Lake Brunner as well as the Grey River Valley.

The area of the Grey District is 3,513 square kilometres.

The district is rich in history and character. Key industries are tourism, mining, agriculture, fishing, manufacturing and services industries. The main hospital for the West Coast is in Greymouth.

What's influencing the education system in this catchment?



Changing population profile

- We have seen an increase of migration to the West Coast due to the affordability of housing. However, along with this uptake in internal migration we are also seeing the closure of industries such as coal mining and a general downturn in business. This is coupled with climatically vulnerable communities such as Barrytown which are vulnerable to issues such as coastal erosion.
- There is a current push from national and local government to make the West Coast a premier tourist destination for New Zealanders through shovel ready projects given the impact of the Covid-19 situation on tourism numbers.



Network management

- We are forecasting a small population bulge in the catchment; however, we have sufficient capacity in our schools in the catchment to meet this bulge. We will need to ensure that any rationalisation and modernisation efforts consider this future population increase.
- However, we do not forecast significant changes to schooling in the catchment as a large rationalisation programme was undertaken only 10 years ago.
- There are no additional student places required in the catchment in the near to medium term. There is also significant over-capacity across primary schools, with the overall catchment operating at around 70% utilisation.
- Currently there are no changes planned for schooling provision, as schools tend to be small but are essential in ensuring students have access to education across a geographically broad catchment.



Leadership and governance

- There are several beginning principals in this area. Many small schools mean that new principals are often recruited.
- Principal and staff retention is currently an issue in the Grey area, as is the on-going challenge of accessing a relief teacher pool.



Māori medium

- Māori medium provision in the catchment is limited. There is one primary school with provision at Level 2 (Greymouth Main School) and there is now a secondary pathway for tamariki to continue their education in te reo in the catchment.
- Greymouth High School has had a Māori Kaupapa class for the last three years for Years 9-11, and have appointed a Kaiako Māori.



Kāhui Ako

- There is one Kāhui Ako operating in the catchment, which is working well, with a leadership variation in place.



Learning support

- Four Learning Support Coordinators have been appointed for the Kāhui Ako. There has been progress in this area and exclusions have reduced. ORS funded students are mainstreamed with no specialist day school option.



Early childhood education

- A variety of teacher lead and parent lead services in the area including licensed services including Playcentre and Kindergarten, Home-Based, and certificated Playgroups.
- WestREAP has a contract to provide early learning participation services to Grey, Buller and the rest of the West Coast.



Secondary-tertiary pathways

- The Trades Academy managed out of Greymouth High School covers the West Coast. Tai Poutini Polytechnic is well connected to secondary schools. Coast Connect also provides an online service networking for students and employment. WestREAP are actively involved in engaging young people with ongoing education and training.



Investment in school property

- Greymouth High School property is under review to evaluate the most appropriate investment in the asset.
- We continue to monitor coastal erosion on all schools in this catchment.

Here's what is already underway to help us manage education provision in this catchment:



- We are working with schools on individual leadership and governance issues through regular monitoring and school visits.



- We are working with schools to support the Learning Support Coordinator model and prevention of suspensions and exclusions.



- All bus routes will be reviewed after the new contract commences in 2022.



The **Grey Catchment Plan** will meet the needs of New Zealand's changing schooling network, benefiting around **2,000 learners/ākonga** each year over the next decade to 2030. There are 15 schools/kura in this catchment.

July 2021	Primary	Composite	Secondary	Specialist	Total
Number of schools	12	1	2	0	15
Total funded roll	1,335	207	729	0	2,271
MME Level 1 & 2	0	0	0	0	0
ORS-funded roll	13	1	11	0	25
Māori roll	277	0	122	0	399
Pacific roll	29	0	28	0	57

Map key:
% roll change over 10-year period

- Opened in last 10 years
- High growth
- Moderate growth
- Low growth
- Stable/decline

Note: Roll growth at schools indicated on this map is based on a percentage change in roll numbers over a 10-year period, and may indicate higher (or lower) roll growth than absolute numbers suggest.

Potential responses to shaping a stronger education system across the Grey catchment

Leadership and governance

- We will continue to develop our beginning principal support networks.
- We will continue working on principal recruitment and staff retention.

Māori medium

- To work with iwi, schools and the community to co-create the future of Māori medium provision in the area. The regional Māori medium plan currently under development will inform the direction and priorities of this work.

Investment in school property

- Some schools would benefit from rationalisation of property. The gap between property being underutilised but not qualifying for rationalisation can be detrimental to schools as they are required to maintain their unused property.

Learning support

- We are looking to work with schools to develop a better system for placing excluded students.

School buses/transport

- A review of school bus routes is planned for 2022.