

Catchment description

The Wainuiomata catchment covers the suburb of Wainuiomata in Lower Hutt. Hills surround the town on three sides, with only one major road into and out of the town. Wainuiomata has a total population of about 17,900.

A significant network review in 2002 resulted in the closure and merger of a number of schools in this catchment. Wainuiomata North has been identified as a potential future development area and is set out in the Hutt City Council Urban Growth Strategy and the Wellington Regional Growth Framework. The area comprises 130 hectares of greenfield land, the bulk of which is still in the early stages of planning.

What's influencing the education system in this catchment?



Changing demographic profile

- The total population across Wainuiomata has increased by 7.2% between 2013 and 2018, compared to growth of 0.4% between 2006 and 2013. Census 2018 data shows an increase since 2013 of 850 people aged between 20-39 years residing in this catchment. This is significant population growth in younger age groups.
- Wainuiomata is a popular suburb for young families with its affordable housing and close links to the Hutt Valley and Wellington. This catchment traditionally sees the most house sales of any suburb in Lower Hutt, however parental perception often sees families seeking education for their children elsewhere. We anticipate that as growth continues across the wider Hutt Valley area, a larger proportion of Wainuiomata students will attend local schools in this catchment due to schools outside the catchment having increasingly higher proportions of their own local students, thereby limiting places for out of zone enrolments.



Parental choice influencing utilisation

- Despite population growth, most of the school rolls are dropping in the catchment with students choosing to leave the catchment to access other schooling options, particularly in the secondary age group. Between 2008 and 2021, school rolls dropped in this catchment by 818 students, though this decline has slowed since 2015.
- In 2011, 69% of the secondary student population attended a local school in this catchment, with 23% accessing secondary education in other schools in Lower Hutt. By 2021, only 50% of secondary students were enrolled in local Wainuiomata schools.



Network management

- One school in the catchment operates an enrolment scheme, Fernlea School. We are not in discussion with any other schools in the catchment to implement enrolment schemes at this stage.
- There are currently two development projects underway in Wainuiomata, Parkway Rise and Wise Street.



State integrated schooling options

- There is one state-integrated Catholic primary school in this catchment, St Claudine Thevenet School. Whilst the roll has remained steady, there has been an increase in the number of students choosing Our Lady of the Rosary School on the Lower Hutt side of the Wainuiomata Hill. Our Lady of the Rosary shares the same special character as St Claudine Thevenet.



Investment in school property

- Some of the primary schools in this catchment have ageing infrastructure.
- Wainuiomata High School was established in 2002 as the result of a merger following a network review which also saw the merger of a number of primary schools. Wainuiomata High School has ageing infrastructure with many of the school's buildings in poor condition. In 2018, a significant redevelopment of the High School was announced. The redevelopment will remediate weathertightness issues, modernise existing teaching spaces and build flexible learning spaces. It is anticipated that this redevelopment will attract more secondary students to remain within the catchment.



Māori learners/ākonga

- In 2021, almost half (43%) of ākonga enrolled in Wainuiomata schools identify as Māori.
- Pukeatua Primary School, Wainuiomata Intermediate and the High School all offer Māori medium education at Levels 1, 2 and 1 respectively. In July 2021, 106 ākonga were enrolled in Māori medium learning. In addition, TKKM o Te Ara Whanui (Year 1-13) in Alicetown has approximately 115 ākonga enrolled from the Wainuiomata catchment.



Kāhui Ako

- There is a history of collaboration across the local schools. The Wainuiomata Kāhui Ako is still in the establishment stage. Currently, two experienced and long-standing primary school principals are acting in a shared leadership role.
- St Claudine Thevenet School does not belong to the Wainuiomata Kāhui Ako. The principal of this school leads a faith based Kāhui Ako known as 'Te Kāhui Waiako'.
- The Kāhui Ako were given Learning Support Coordinator allocation across their Kāhui Ako but these positions are yet to be filled, despite ongoing efforts by the two acting lead principals.



Leadership and governance

- Recruitment and retention of staff is challenging in this catchment. This catchment has a number of wider social issues that can mean school staff are involved in social support, separate to education. There are a number of passionate staff and leaders in this catchment who believe additional coordinated support is required to address the challenges that families in this catchment face.
- The schools tend to have stable governance. There are no current statutory interventions in place.



Secondary-tertiary pathways

- Students from this catchment predominantly transition to WelTec/Whitireia. Wainuiomata High School has excellent engagement with Trades Academy and Gateway programmes. The High School has recently redeveloped its junior school curriculum which it plans to expand into the senior school.
- MOE/MSD funded Education to Employment brokers work with local schools to support work integrated opportunities for students.



Early childhood education

- There are 12 early learning services and 4 kōhanga reo in this catchment, all are community based.



Learning support

- There is no dedicated learning support provision in this catchment.

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



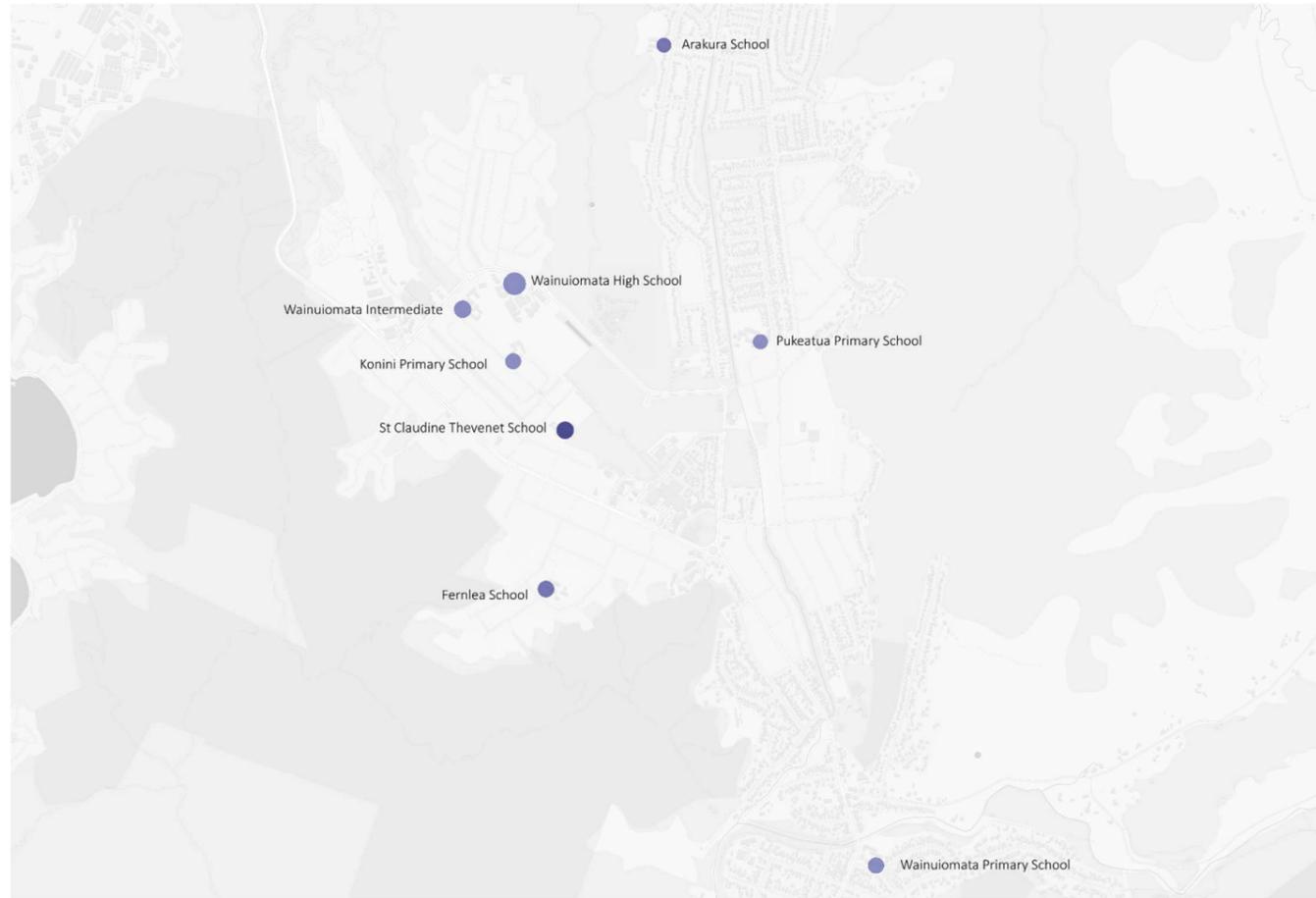
- There have been some discussions with a potential applicant to establish a kura in this catchment.



- We are investing in a significant redevelopment of Wainuiomata High School and work to address weathertightness issues at Wainuiomata Primary School. We will continue to invest in school property in this catchment.



- We are working with iwi and local and central government agencies to develop the Wellington Regional Growth Framework. The Framework is looking at challenges and opportunities to accommodate population growth in the overall Wellington region over the next 30 years.



The **Wainuiomata Catchment Plan** will meet the needs of New Zealand’s changing schooling network, benefiting an estimated **2,100 learners/ākonga** each year over the next decade to 2030. There are 8 schools/kura in this catchment.

| July 2021 | Primary | Composite | Secondary | Specialist | Total |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Number of schools | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Total funded roll | 1,496 | 0 | 559 | 0 | 2,055 |
| MME Level 1 & 2 | 76 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 106 |
| ORS-funded roll | 20 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 31 |
| Māori roll | 618 | 0 | 274 | 0 | 892 |
| Pacific roll | 247 | 0 | 69 | 0 | 316 |

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 Wainuiomata catchment:



Wider network review

- We will continue to liaise with Hutt City Council on growth plans in Wainuiomata, including further analysis of whether a new school is required to accommodate roll growth in the long term. Should larger developments proceed in this catchment, we would work with schools and the community to plan for and respond to growth.