



Mt Eden Normal Primary School

Te Whare Akoranga o Maungawhau

POLICY

Cohort Entry

Rationale

From 1st January, 2020, schools may adopt and enforce a Cohort Entry Policy for children enrolling school after their 5th birthday under Sections 5, 5A, 5B and 5C of the Education Act, 1989, following community consultation, which the Mt Eden Normal Primary School Board of Trustees conducted in September, 2019.

There is evidence that successful transition to school has a significant impact on children's social and educational development. The Board believes that cohort entry will assist the school in managing the new entrants transition process more effectively by;

1. Improving the ability of new entrants to build relationships with their peers
2. Supporting children from different communities, kindergartens and daycare centres in developing a sense of belonging when they start school
3. Helping teachers to settle cohorts into school routines and programs more effectively, thereby improving their opportunities for learning
4. Avoiding the potential disruption of children joining some classes on an almost weekly basis
5. Enabling MENPS to review and refine our pre-school visits and welcome experiences
6. Using staffing resources more effectively by avoiding employing teachers for small numbers of children
7. Assisting with planning for new staffing to open Year 1 or 0 classes as the roll grows

Definitions

Cohort entry refers to a system of staged enrolment. Beginning students start school at the next available cohort entry enrolment date following their 5th birthday. Parents also have

the choice of waiting for a later cohort entry point if they feel their child is not ready to start school, up to the required enrolment age of 6.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to implement cohort entry for students enrolling following their 5th birthday.

Requirements

Cohort entry;

1. Only applies to children aged five who have not previously enrolled in a school
2. Does not apply to children starting school at six. This means that parents choosing not to start their child until the age of six must ensure they start school by their sixth birthday
3. Does not apply to 5 year olds who have previously enrolled at another school who go on to subsequently enrol at our school
4. In certain circumstances, at the Principal's discretion, the entry date may be varied in consultation with parents/caregivers, although enrolment may not occur prior to children turning 5 years old
5. Students will be offered opportunities to visit the school prior to enrolment. New parents will be offered information to assist with the transition of their child to school, including an opportunity to attend a Parent Information session
6. Cohort entry dates will align with dates as set nationally by the Minister, and will be published annually on the school website

Conclusion

A well managed system of Cohort entry will support the successful enrolment and transition for students enrolling at school for the first time following their 5th birthday.

Signed:
Chairperson
Date: Oct, 2019

Policy review details

Version / date: Oct, 2019
Review cycle: Triennial
Date for next review: