



Opononi Area School - Te Kura Takiwā o Opononi

School Description

Who We Are

Opononi Area School is a small rural school situated on the edge of the beautiful Hokianga Harbour.

Valuing what our learners and their whānau bring to our kura is an essential part of realising our school's vision.

We are committed to growing learners who are connected to and participate in the local community.

We endeavour to foster connections and work in partnership with all our local schools.

School Values

Manaakitanga - Respect - Honesty

Our Whānau

Valuing what our learners and their whānau bring to our kura is an essential part of realising our school's vision. Many of our whānau connect strongly with local marae and have an enduring connection to the whenua. We value and protect all cultures that add to the diverse nature of our school whānau.

School Whakataukī

To seek out opportunities and experience success.

To always strive and move towards understanding, to take risks, be brave, to persevere and be resilient;

Just as Kupe was on his journey to find our homeland. Te Puna o Te Ao Mārama.



Location

Opononi Area School is a composite of Primary, Intermediate and Secondary schools, based in picturesque and spacious grounds at Omapere, 1.5 hour drive from the Bay of Islands and 1.5 hour drive from Dargaville. The school is located on the shores of the Hokianga Harbour in the heart of Northland.

A Northland lifestyle gives access to the beautiful Bay of Islands studded with sheltered beaches, wineries and historical towns like Russell. It's also home to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, a historic Māori site. Famed for its sandboarding dunes, Ninety Mile Beach stretches along the west coast toward Cape Reinga.

History

Many generations from the Opononi Valley have been educated at the school. The intergenerational connections drive the passion and commitment to the students, the school and it's future that is evident today. The enthusiasm of stakeholders to work with the school leadership to strengthen the school is a key strength. Community commitment alongside the exceptional natural resources means the potential of this school is truly significant.

While the student roll has fluctuated over the years, the current roll level requires a focussed approach to resetting the direction of the school with the community to ensure that the school can provide a vibrant, quality education that meets the needs of the students today. Developing this vision and strategic direction will be dependent on strong, competent and connected leadership to do this. The school has the facilities to grow significantly and resources for investment in student learning.

Our School

Opononi Area School is a composite school, years 0-15. On our school grounds there is a Community Library, as well as our modern gymnasium (basketball court, netball courts), astroturf courts, school pool, skatepark, and two school fields. Opononi Area School is a thriving hub for local community groups.

For a small rural school, we offer many options to our students, with individual attention, guidance and support as well as access to specialist subjects and facilities.

A portfolio of school houses and school flats is another school asset.

Our Staff

Staffing at Opononi Area School includes primary and secondary trained teachers.

The Leadership Team comprises of a fulltime Principal, Deputy Principal, Primary School Leader, Middle School Leader and Principal Nominee.

We also have 12 Support staff, 3 Administration, 3 Cleaners, 1 Caretaker, 2 Teacher Aide's, 1 IT Administrator, 1 Sports Coordinator and Gateway Coordinator, and 1 school Librarian.

The Learning Support Coordinator of our Kāhui Ako is based at the school. We also have two Resource Teachers of Literacy based at the school.

Our Students

We are committed to growing learners who are connected to and participate in the local community. We work with our marae and other community organisations to grow our student's sense of citizenship and belonging. We value our tikanga and protect our Reo.

What is great about an Area School is the family connections. Many of our students in the Junior area have older siblings or whānau in the Senior school. Our kura is one large whānau. Unlike many schools, we have the benefit of building a close working relationship with our students and their whānau which spans their entire primary and secondary education. This means that the school knows the student and their whānau really well, and is therefore in the best position to provide educational opportunities and support. Furthermore small class sizes mean students get high levels of individual attention.

The current roll is 125 students, 84% of students are Māori.

Our Community

Our school community whakapaka and have strong connections with all five local Marae in South Hokianga, Pakanae Marae (Maraeroa), Kokohuia Marae (Te Whakarongotai), Waiwhatawhata Marae (Te Kai Waha), Waimamaku Marae (Whakamaharatanga), Omanaia Marae (Te Piiti Marae).

Key community groups include the OAS Friends of the School is a parent lead group. Hokianga Sports Club's vision is to increase opportunities for young people living in Hokianga. Swim club runs afterschool each summer using the school pool to teach local tamariki to swim, Locker Room promotes community fitness held in our school gym, Team Alpha Cubs teachers kickboxing skills to our community, Breakthrough Church Hokianga use our school hall, our local Kiln is used by local community art groups, Opo JMB Rugby, Marae Touch are just a few of the local community groups with connections to our school.

We are part of the Hokianga Community of Learning 'Te Manu Kawariki' together with 6 other schools from both sides of the Hokianga Harbour. We endeavor to foster connections and work in partnership with all our local schools.

We have many support services working within the school, SWIS, RTLB, Mirriam Centre, Ngati Hine CADS, Korowai/Marae, Manawatahi, MOE Attendance & Engagement, Hauora Hokianga with a few new ones starting next year.

For further information please contact the Limited Statutory Manager ,Vivien Knowles vivienknowles02@gmail.com or 0272866325