

AVATEA SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2007

INTRODUCTION

We extend to you, parents and pupils, a very warm welcome.

Our hope is that you will find your association with Avatea School, and your child's time here, a worthwhile and enjoyable experience for you and that it is beneficial to your child.

We look forward to your involvement in classroom programmes, on school excursions and at family events.

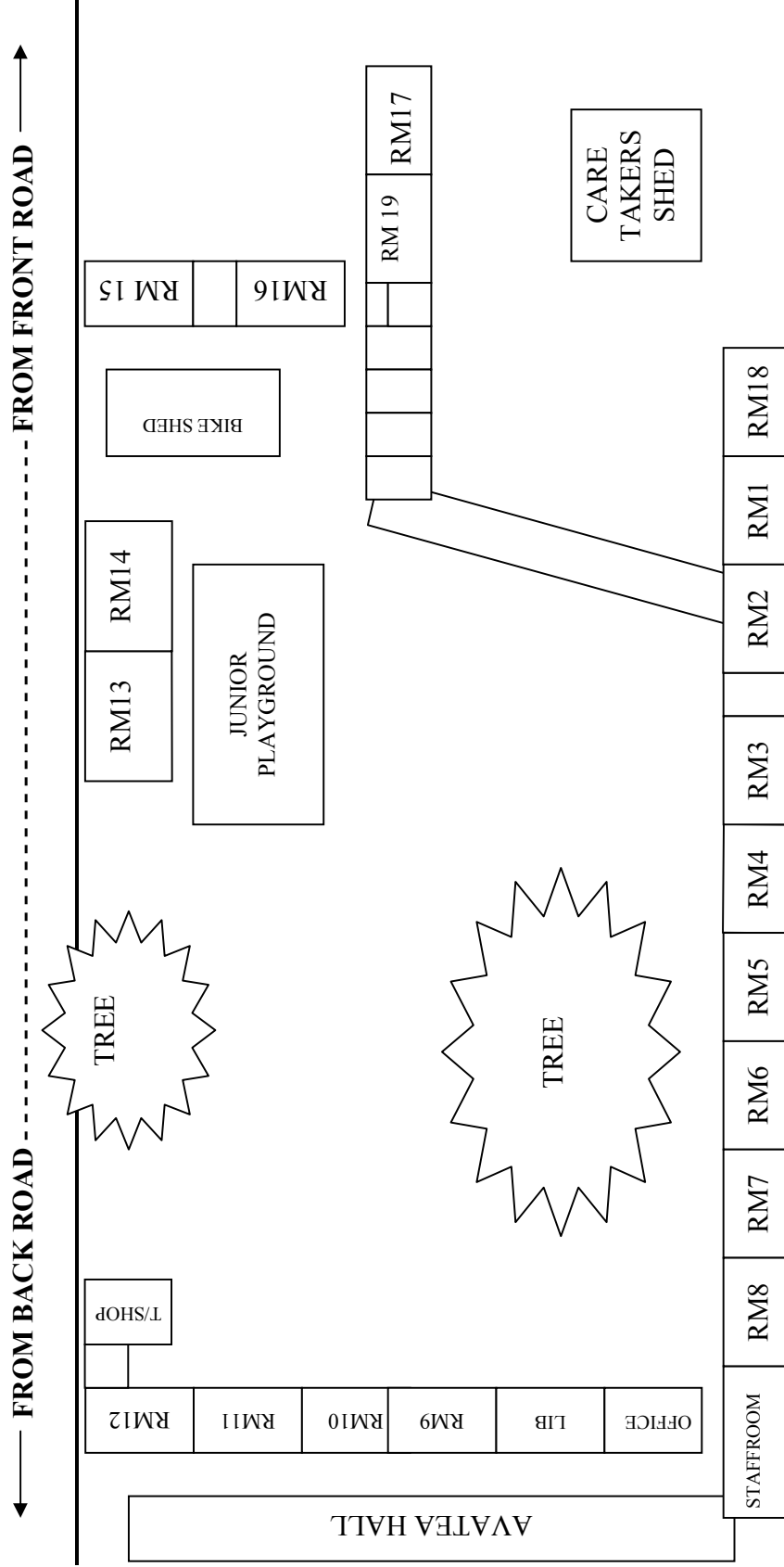
Our staffs aim to provide the best all-round education for each individual child.

We are all very proud of our school, its staff, facilities and what it offers our children. Should you choose our school for your child, we trust you will share our pride and enjoyment from involvement with Avatea School.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. Please remember our staffs are available to answer any queries you may have to process your enrolment.

Teina Etches
Principal
Avatea School

AVATEA SCHOOL LAYOUT



ENROLMENT

You are welcome to enrol your child at any time. For children who attend Blackrock Pre-School, the staff arrange for a visit during the last month before your child is due to come to school.

If your child does not attend Blackrock Pre-School you are welcome to arrange your own visits.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

At the end of Term 1 and 2 a written report will be discussed with parents. Parents' interviews are held at the end of Term 1 and 2.

At other times, we operate an 'open door' policy where parents are encouraged to approach the teacher or Principal to discuss any matter. Sometimes it is better to phone and make an appointment, which will allow us to ensure all of the necessary information is obtained before we meet.

If at any time during the year, we have a concern about your child, we will contact you.

HOMEWORK

All pupils are encouraged to do some reading homework every night. Pupils may also have work to do in spelling, maths or study skills when required.

Homework are given out to children in the whole school on a Monday or when necessary and are to be completed for marking at the required date.

ABSENCES

If your child is not going to be at school please let us know either in person, by phone or by a note.

Because of the ‘safety’ aspect of children coming to school, we now request that you phone between 8.30am – 9.15am to let us know when your child will not be at school. If we haven’t received notification that a child will be absent and they are not at school, the Office Secretary will ring before 10.30am to ensure the child is safe.

NEWSLETTERS

Each Month a newsletter is sent home via the eldest or only child in the family. Reminder notices may be sent home during the week for special events.

HALL

Our school hall is something Avatea is very proud of. It was opened and completed in October 2005. It is used for many activities within the school and is equipped with a sound system. The parents and Teachers Association built the hall, debt-free. It took one and a half years to build.

Several outside groups have already made bookings to use this hall.

ASSEMBLY

A school assembly is held in the school hall on Friday mornings at 9.30am.

During this child-centred assembly, certificates are issued recognizing children's attributes, efforts and social skills. Children's sporting achievements are also acknowledged. Classes put on a range of items such as plays, children reading their written work and displaying artwork. Cultural activities are also popular as presentations at these assemblies.

SCHOOL MOTTO

“Kia Tito te vaka e aku tamariki”

Strive for Excellence



MISSION STATEMENT

The School

Avatea School will always provide a quality education, which caters for:

- The needs of all the Children
- The development of the school
- The school system



VISION STATEMENT

Where the school intends to be

Setting, development, and maintaining achievement goals and a high standard of performance in cultural, academic, physical, and spiritual growth of the school.



STRATEGIC GOALS

What the school has to focus on in terms of its vision

- To meet the identified ongoing needs of our school
- To develop programmes and a sense of unity within the school
- To promote and enhance the unique abilities of the students
- To enrich the spiritual growth of the students
- To maintain cultural heritage languages and provide interaction with the community on a regular basis

AVATEA SCHOOL CAN OFFER.....

- Excellent standard of classroom
- A substantial stocked library featuring a wide selection of both fiction and non-fiction reading material and computerized issue and returning of books
- Computers and a printer in our computer room
- Digital cameras, video recorder and television
- An excellent tree-sheltered playground environment
- Large grassed areas
- An adventure playground
- An excellent range of modern sports equipment
- Assistance available for children with considerable difficulties
- Extension for children displaying considerable ability
- A Dental Clinic in the school
- A caring environment in which children's individual achievements are recognised

LIBRARY

All classes visit our well-stocked library.

We are fortunate to have a Teacher in charge of the library who meets the everyday needs of the library assisted by students to look after all aspects of our library from the buying of new books to the mending of the old ones.

We are always looking for parental voluntary assistance to make our library a welcoming learning environment. The student library monitors also help by opening the library to the children during lunchtime.

BIBLE READING IN SCHOOL

Each class level has a half-hour programme each week. This programme is organized on an Interdenominational basis. Children are taught aspects of the Bible according to their age level.

If you do not wish your child to take part in this programme, please contact your child's teacher or the Principal.

GROUND

We are fortunate to have extensive playing fields and playground which community members use after school, at weekends and in the holidays when requested and approved.

SPORTS

At Avatea we like to introduce the children to a range of sports and associated skills.

Sports skills take place in both the Senior, Middle and Junior Syndicates. Children are introduced to a range of sporting experiences such as volleyball through to the more traditional rugby, soccer and netball.

All children will take part throughout the year in a variety of inter-school tournaments, such as volleyball, athletics, soccer and tennis.

All sport is based around the philosophy of 'Cook Island Sports' and focuses on children's own achievements, working as a team where appropriate and recognizing outstanding performers.

Our school has teams in Netball, Rugby, Volleyball, Soccer and Touch taking part in term competitions on a one or two whole day basis. These teams are coached by teachers and parents.

SWIMMING

All classes use the Social Centre for their swimming instruction, usually for a 6-week block twice a year-during the first 6 weeks of term 1 and the last 6-weeks of term 4.

The swimming area is within a walking distance.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The school is located beside the Nikao Ara Metua (back road) on the road turning left from the western end of the airport runway. It is situated in a well-secluded area, having mature trees and shrubs and plenty of grassed areas.

The school has 19 classrooms, a brand new hall, a library, and an administration block, Dental Clinic, a Health and a Resource Room for Teachers.

The school has 20 teachers including the Principal and 3 Special Needs Teacher Aides, an Office Secretary/Clerk and a Caretaker.

The current philosophy is to ensure that each child that attends Avatea School works to a level where he/she can experience success and gain self-esteem.

Programmes operate to cater for slow learning pupils and to extend and enrich pupils with special abilities.

The school is very well equipped in all areas of education and has continual and excellent support from parents who are encouraged to participate in the school's activities.

SCHOOL FEES

The grants obtained from the Ministry of Education does not meet all costs involved in running a school. We therefore ask each family to contribute to these costs in the form of a modest donation of:

- \$30.00 per child
- \$40.00 for a family (2 or more children) for a year

The cost of all extra “activities” the children take part in such as visits to the museum, educational trips, and cultural activities are paid for by each child at the time.

STATIONERY

We supply each student with basic stationery from the schools stock. The stock is allocated once a term and is funded by the schools’ operation Budget.

By purchasing in bulk at the beginning of each year, we manage to keep children supplied with basic stock.

TUCKSHOP & LUNCH

At school pupils are supervised when eating their lunch for 12.00 until 12.45pm, outside if fine, or in the classroom if wet.

Our tuckshop opens at 10.00am – 10.20am and 12.00 – 12.45pm.

The profit from this shop is used to support Parents and Teachers Association.

SCHOOL PREFECTS

The Year 8 children are part of a school leaders programme and play a major role in leading school events including assemblies, organizing lunchtime activities and buddy reading with younger children.

NETWORK SYSTEM

Avatea School is lucky to have a Computer Room. Each class is timetabled for lessons from the year 1 students to year 8. Computer programmes are integrated into the curriculum.

Teachers or pupils may be contacted for messages but parents are encouraged to do this when absolutely necessary. However it is better to make an appointment before visiting a teacher or the Principal to discuss any matter pertaining to your child.