

Principal's Welcome



Our challenge is to enable students to develop to their potential through high quality education in a cooperative, friendly, stimulating, well disciplined environment.

At Onslow College we strongly believe that we are providing our students with outstanding educational experiences and opportunities.

We have a commitment to helping our students achieve the success that will allow them to have choice in their career path and allow them to make a valuable contribution to society.

To achieve these aspirational goals, we need to build a positive partnership with students and their families, with everyone accepting their responsibility for making these goals come to fruition. We place a lot of value on developing a positive sense of community with everyone recognising and working within clear standards and expectations.

Students at Onslow College enjoy success and academically we rate among the top co-ed colleges in New Zealand. We also offer our students a wide variety of co-curricular activities in music, drama, sport, and cultural activities, and these certainly help us develop well-rounded students.

Because we work hard on relationships, our students enjoy their school and are proud of it. We have managed to offer a less regulated school environment without compromising our excellent academic achievement rates and our students learn the importance of positive working relationships with both their peers and their teachers. We provide a very comprehensive student support network and our staff genuinely care about their students.

The information in this prospectus will help you in your decision making and we look forward to your child joining our outstanding college.

Yours sincerely

Peter Leggat

Principal

Ko Tarikākā te maunga
TARIKĀKĀ IS THE MOUNTAIN.

Ko Waipāhīhī te awa
WAIPĀHĪHĪ IS THE RIVER.

Ko Onslow College te kura
ONSLOW COLLEGE IS THE SCHOOL.



Vision

Inspiring students to learn, grow and achieve in an environment that encourages individual and community responsibility, freedom of expression and respect for the rights of others.

Values

Working Together

Students, parents, the school and the community work together to achieve an inclusive school that is socially and culturally diverse, safe and free from disruption and which recognises the unique status of Māori.

Realising Potential

We value and celebrate effort, success, innovation and creativity. We believe high expectations promote student achievement and encourage social responsibility.

Mutual Respect and Self-Management

Onslow is characterised by a mature interaction between staff and students. Teachers and students are treated with respect and students share responsibility for learning with their teachers.

Life Long Learning

Students are engaged by way of a personalised learning process and develop as lifelong learners. They are taught how to learn by high quality and motivated staff who continue to learn themselves.

About Onslow

“Teachers actively build and maintain a positive and constructive learning environment. Effective practices observed that contribute to sustained engagement include; a clear focus on learning, well-paced and purposeful lessons and students being encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and progress.” ERO Report 2011

Onslow College is a coeducational, decile 10 state secondary school located in the north-western suburbs of Wellington. Our zone includes Johnsonville, Churton Park, Ohariu Valley, Broadmeadows, Khandallah, Cashmere, Ngaio, Chartwell, Crofton Downs, Wilton, Wadestown and Northland. We also serve Karori and Kelburn. Onslow College operates an enrolment scheme.

Onslow College is an environment that encourages independence, self-discipline, and social responsibility with a student-centred philosophy. There is no prescribed uniform for students.

Onslow College promotes an inclusive environment for all students and is renowned for the positive staff-student relationships and large co-curricular involvement of both groups. Through the creative talents and enthusiasm of our students and staff we strive for excellence in all aspects of College life.

We encourage diversity and individuality whilst ensuring behaviour does not constrain the rights of other students to an excellent education.

Onslow College works hard to communicate with its wider community and involve families with their key role in supporting student learning.

There are approximately 1250 students, 90 teachers and 30 support staff at Onslow College.



The Junior School



“In classrooms, students are focused learners, work cooperatively and assist each other. They interact respectfully, are keen and interested and contribute freely in discussions. Student independence and self-management are encouraged.”

ERO Report 2011



We regard the learning in the junior school (Years 9 and 10) as vital in:

- developing key skills and understandings necessary for future success.
- establishing sound work and study habits.
- providing access to a wide range of subjects and disciplines to enable students to make informed choices in the future. Our goal is to provide maximum choice and, at the same time, encourage intensive development of student skills and interests.
- enabling students to create and establish their own identity in a learning environment which is flexible and responsive to their needs while providing clear structures and guidelines to support them in their learning.

Junior School Courses

Year 9 and 10 students have:

- four hours a week each of, English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.
- three hours a week of Physical Education and Health.
- six hours a week of optional subjects.

Options

- Art
- Consumer Studies
- Dance
- Design Technology
- Drama
- English for Speakers of Other Languages
- Fashion and Design
- Food Technology and Nutrition
- French
- German
- Graphics and Design
- History

- Japanese
- Music
- Poutama
- Spanish (from Year 10)
- Te Reo Māori

The Junior Curriculum Handbook contains full details of course content and requirements.

Extension Opportunities

As an inclusive school, Onslow College ensures that there are extension opportunities available within all programmes. Staff are trained in providing differentiated lessons that allow each student to challenge themselves and to be challenged. Year 9 and 10 Mathematics classes are banded.

Students enter and are successful in a wide range of competitions including the Australian Maths, English and Science Competitions and Science CREST programmes.

We may recommend students study some subjects at higher levels.



Senior School



We offer an extensive range of subjects in the senior school. Please refer to the Senior Curriculum Handbook for full course details. Students are able to choose a course which best suits their needs due to the flexibility of studying at multiple levels and the variety of courses offered.

The transition programme provides opportunities for work experience and to study at polytechnics and other providers. Also available is a range of practical and vocationally oriented subjects.

Qualifications

NCEA - Level 1 (Year 11)

- All students take English, Science, Maths and three other subjects.
- Students who meet the prerequisites may take subjects above Year 11 level.

NCEA - Level 2 (Year 12)

- All students take English or Te Reo and the equivalent of an additional four or five full year subjects.
- Students who have met the prerequisites may take subjects at NCEA Level 3.

NCEA - Level 3/4 (Year 13)

- This includes University Entrance and Scholarship.
- Students take five subjects.

Leadership Opportunities

Senior students at Onslow College have a range of opportunities to provide active leadership within the school.

- BOT Representative
- Drama and Music
- Environment Group
- Outdoor Education
- Peer Mediation
- Peer Tutoring
- Peer Support
- Sports Coaching
- Sports Council
- School Council
- Stage Challenge
- School Magazine- Ad Lib
- Year level councils

Students also play an integral part in school processes such as staff appointments, the College Property Committee and other decision making groups.

"National Certificate in Educational Achievement (NCEA) results show high levels of success for students in Years 11-13. Students generally achieve above the level of those in similar decile 10 schools."

ERO Report 2011



Student Support

Pastoral Care

- Every student is placed in a form class.
- The Form Teacher provides support and advice to students in their form class.
- Deans have overall responsibility for the welfare of students at each year level.
- If you need to contact the College about your child you should do so through the appropriate Dean.
- The Deputy Principals are responsible for coordinating the pastoral support network.
- Mentoring by senior students occurs in programmes such as peer support and peer mediation.
- The principles of restorative justice are a key focus of the discipline system.

Māori Students

- Onslow College recognises the unique status of Māori.
- Māori language and culture can be studied at all levels.
- The Kaitiaki and Māori teachers work closely with students, whānau, Poutama, and other staff.
- Kapa Haka is an active group within the school.

Tena Koutou Katoa

Ko tēnei te wāhanga mo Te Reo me ngā tikanga Māori ki tēnei kura

Ka taea ngā taurira ki te ako i te reo Māori ki nga reanga katoa

Ia tau ka haere ngā taurira mo tētahi haerenga

Ka whakahaere tētahi rōpū kapahaka.

Ka awhinata hoki ngā taurira e te kaiako Māori

Kei te whakamana hoki te Kareti nēi

I ngā kaupapa o Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Learning Support

- Students with any learning needs requiring special teaching methods are fully mainstreamed.
- Learning Support coordinates Individual Education Plans and works with students, parents, class teachers and specialists.
- Support is available for other students in a number of areas including:
 - » Written tasks.
 - » Reading / Spelling interventions.
 - » Mathematics.
 - » Reader writer assistance in tests and exams for qualifying students.
 - » Study skills seminars.

Guidance Counsellors

- For assistance with social and emotional issues students or parents can contact the Guidance Counsellors.
- The Guidance Counsellors are professionally trained.
- All issues are dealt with confidentially.
- The Kaitiaki is a guardian for Māori students.

Careers Adviser

- Onslow College has a comprehensive Careers Education programme.
- This programme is the responsibility of the Careers Advisor who is available to parents as well as students.
- Advice and guidance is provided on careers, tertiary education, training courses and subject choices.
- Careers advice and guidance begins in Year 9.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

- The ESOL department supports students from non-English speaking backgrounds.
- Language support is provided in mainstream classrooms and through small group tuition for students needing higher levels of English assistance.



“The college’s extensive student support network maintains an holistic overview of student well-being” ERO Report 2011

Sport and Recreation



"Learning and achievement in creative, cultural and sporting areas are valued and celebrated both within the school and through newsletters and the media."

ERO Report 2011

Onslow College students participate and compete successfully in a wide range of sporting activities. Our sports staff coordinate sporting activities within the school and work to ensure that our students participate successfully in the full range of inter-school sports. Onslow College encourages the discipline, commitment and healthy competition that enable many of our students to represent their sport at regional and national levels.

The success of the sports programme relies on the involvement of parents and others in the community.

Sports available to students include:

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Bowls
- Canoe polo
- Chess
- Cricket
- Cross country / Road running
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Netball
- Orienteering
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Shooting
- Skiing / Snowboarding
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Touch Rugby
- Tramping
- Volleyball
- Waterpolo
- Yachting / Sailing



Education Outside the Classroom

The use of educational facilities beyond the classroom for subject fieldwork is encouraged.

This includes sports facilities, museums, galleries, libraries, government and private organisations, rivers, beaches and parks.

Students are also involved in outdoor pursuits programmes, which are designed to provide challenges and support personal development. All Year 9 classes participate in outdoor activities at the start of the year. Senior students participate in these expeditions as leaders. Year 10 students are involved in an activities based programme at the end of the year. Students may also take part in trips organised by an active tramping club and have the opportunity to attend the Outdoor Pursuits Centre near Tongariro National Park.

In the last two years, our school has been one of only 12 schools in NZ that qualify to take part in the Hillary Challenge run by OPC. This is a wonderful experience for our students and a prestigious event to be part of. Our junior students compete in the Get 2 Go adventure race which is another challenging event.



Cultural

Cultural Excellence

Excellence in the arts is encouraged at Onslow College. The school is committed to enhancing student abilities and involvement in this area. The nature of the school is very much shaped by the creative talents and enthusiasm of its students.

Debating

Students are active in debating with teams in most grades.

Drama

Drama follows a strong tradition of public performance at both junior and senior levels.

Drama programmes are available to students at all levels.

Other drama opportunities include:

- Theatresports
- Stage Challenge
- The Sheila Winn Shakespeare festival
- Musical productions

Environment

Onslow College has an active Green Group which participates in regional and national events and contributes to a project for the restoration of the Waipahihi Stream area within the school environs. Students are directly involved in decision making processes which impact on the general school environment.

International Experiences

Onslow College offers students the opportunity to take part in a number of exciting international experiences. These include:

- The annual exchange with Yamamura Girls' High School in Tokyo.
- Classics trip to Greece and Italy
- French Trip
- Himalayas trekking
- Spanish trip
- Sports trips to Australia

Onslow College students are regularly selected to participate in exchanges such as; language exchanges, Rotary, A.F.S. and Y.F.U.

Te Whānau o Te Ara Poutama

Te Whānau o Te Ara Poutama celebrates Māori Language and Culture, focusing on key elements of tikanga which are Manaakitanga (to be caring and enact hospitality where ever possible), whānaukatanga (building and maintaining positive relationships) while remaining committed to strengthening the capacity of our taura to utilise Te Reo to facilitate all Kaupapa Māori.

Te Whānau o Te Ara Poutama has a strong focus also on the tuakana - teina model. We work with our tuakana to develop leadership and teaching skills to support and encourage our teina in learning and upholding tikanga at our school and the wider community.

Kapa Haka

We have a commitment to achieving excellence in Māori Performing Arts and Kapa Haka. The Kapa Haka Group features prominently in school activities and are in an exciting phase of development. Anyone who wishes to participate is warmly welcomed.

Music

Music is strong at all levels of the curriculum.

Individual and group tuition is available for students who wish to learn clarinet, drums, flute, guitar, keyboards, recorder, saxophone, trombone, trumpet or voice.

The school supports bands, chamber ensembles, jazz band, a choir and an orchestra.

Onslow College is represented at many regional and national musical competitions and festivals.

A student written, directed and produced musical is now a feature of the school calendar.

Onslow College participates in music exchanges with other colleges.



"I like cultural activities at Onslow because you get to meet new people. It is great to see different year groups uniting as a school and working together."

Year 9 Student



Facilities

e-Learning and I.C.T.

Onslow College recognises the increasing importance of e-learning and the importance of ICT as a tool to assist teaching and learning. Our classrooms are well equipped to enable ICT supported learning and the college is developing a robust wireless network that will provide connectivity to all areas of the school. We also have a replacement plan for our IT hardware that ensures our students have access to fully up-to-date ICT equipment.

All students receive instruction and training in the effective use of I.C.T. in:

- information retrieval
- presentation & communication
- data processing

Email and online learning tools such as Moodle are used to support and enhance student learning.

All students have a computer account, which gives open use of email and the Internet, subject to the Onslow College Acceptable Use Policy.



Facilities

Onslow College has a strategic goal of developing and providing facilities which enhance student learning, creating an environment which reflects the nature of Onslow College and its community. Currently, the facilities at Onslow College include:

- Thirty general classrooms.
- Eight science laboratories.
- Three practical art rooms.
- A photographic darkroom.
- A music suite with a classroom, performance space, practice rooms and recording studio.
- Six specialist technology classrooms.
- Two gymnasiums.
- Indoor cricket practice facility, cricket nets and a multiuse sand turf.
- Extensive grass playing fields.
- Three computer laboratories supplemented by computer pods throughout the school.
- A well-established library which is the information centre for the school.
- The Arts Centre which is the focus of Drama in the school.
- A student cafeteria and Year 13 Common Room.
- A new media studies suite with film production facilities.
- Onslow College has a long-term property plan which provides for the ongoing development of the school to ensure that we continue to provide a quality teaching and learning environment.

