



# **Renew School**

## **Prospectus**

### **2023**

#### **Mission Statement**

- To provide for students a sound, basic Christian Education that is loyal to the Bible, Christ-centred, promotes those values and standards and recognises that Christian spiritual values permeate all curriculum areas.
- To provide for parents/guardians an alternative choice of school for developing their children to their full potential in God.

#### **Romans 12:2**

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

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**Know God, Grow Character, Achieve Potential, Make a Difference**

## Principal's Message

Renew School developed from vision planted in 1977 coupled with the passion of a group of parents to start in 1993. It became an Integrated Special Character Area School in 1996 under the name 'Christian Renewal School'. The school was renamed in 2020 as 'Renew School'.

The staff and I are grateful to work in a place where we can encourage our students that *"the name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe"* (Proverbs 18:10), that our students are of immeasurable value since they are made in *the image of God* (Genesis 1:26), that God says of His people *"for I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11), that they can become part of God's people when they understand that *"God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16) and that their lives have purpose because *"we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10)..

We value the wellbeing and success of each individual student and maintaining good parent-school relationships.

The following articles will help give you some insight into the school.

## Renew School

Renew School is a Christian School for students from Y1 to Y13. It is situated close to town at 2, Tarewa Road. Pupils come from a variety of backgrounds and environments, but these families are committed to the Special Character of the school.

The school can support 240 students and has 35 teaching, teacher assistant and other support staff.

Enrolling children in Renew School gives parents an opportunity to choose a different and distinctive education environment. Christian Education is based on Biblical principles where respect, honesty and other traditional values are encouraged and expected. This creates a climate for academic excellence throughout the school.



**Barend Blom**

Principal

# Christian Education

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We thank you for your interest in Renew School. As a school our desire is to serve God in all that we do. We are different from other schools- Our purpose is different, as are our goals – we are here to serve God through education and schooling.

We encourage you to read through this Prospectus to understand how our school can serve your family and your children.

Renew School is a Special Character State Integrated Christian School for students from Years 1-13. We are committed to meeting the total wellbeing and success of all students, with a view to having a positive impact on future generations.

**There are two areas where the Christian School is significantly different.**

## ONE: Academic Learning with God at the Centre

### Truth at the Centre

Schooling is about learning and learning is about knowing truth. As Christians we begin with the fact that **God is Truth**. If we are not learning truth then we must be learning a lie. God is Truth, Jesus is Truth and God's Word (Bible) is Truth.

- The object of education is truth.
- If we believe that God is truth then we must begin with learning about God, studying the Bible and learning about how Jesus lived.
- If there is no learning about God then there is no truth.

Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6). Jesus and the revelation the Spirit of truth gave through His apostles are the final, ultimate revelation and definition of truth about God, people, redemption, history, and the world. Without understanding this we cannot be educated.

Deuteronomy 32:4

*<sup>4</sup> He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, **A God of truth** and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.*

Psalms 119:160

*<sup>160</sup> The entirety of **Your word is truth**, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.*

Only a curriculum with God and the Bible at the centre can encourage learning of truth – if it's not truth then it is false. What is false must then be a lie.

### A Biblical World View

All academic subjects are addressed in the Bible. To understand any subject completely we must understand the Biblical perspective. If a subject is taught apart from the knowledge revealed in the Bible then understanding of the subject is incomplete.

- Can I learn History if I don't understand God's role in history and man's development?
- Is a student educated if he doesn't know about God – who is the source of life, truth, knowledge?
- Much of modern science has come through man's desire to learn more about God – for example Sir Isaac Newton, Michael Faraday, and Johannes Kepler are scientists who are Christians. Real success comes from commitment to learn more about God in every area of life.

### Martin Luther

*“I'm afraid that the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently labour in explaining the Holy Scriptures and engraving them in the heart of youth.”*

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### Purpose of Life

Matthew 6:33

*<sup>33</sup>But **seek first the kingdom of God** and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

We are here to seek God and His Kingdom. Our purpose in life fits into God's purposes. *All things were created through Him and for Him.* Colossians 1:16

Education should prepare us for our purpose. If our purpose is about God then God must be at the centre. The Bible is God's revelation to us. Through the Bible we understand God and so the Bible must be foundational to all learning. The Bible helps us understand our purpose here on Earth.

### Abraham Lincoln

*“The ideas that are taught in the classroom will be the thoughts which rule in the government of the next generation.”*

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### Goals

To foster a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

To encourage the ongoing development of Christian character in the life of every student

For all students to achieve to their God-given potential

For every student to recognise their unique value and worth, because everyone is created in the image of God

To become well balanced Christian citizens who can enhance the society they live in

## Ethos of Christian Education

As the purpose of Christian Education is different so also will be the ethos of the school and the reason for a student being in the Christian School. 'We are a family of believers celebrating God's goodness, demonstrating His love and equipping people to change the world'.

We value

1. **The presence of the Word of God**- man is created to enjoy God and have relationship with Him. Joy and success are found in relationship with God. To understand God's perspective in all areas of life and learn to think like He does we need to be guided by His Word.
2. **People**- the basis of the 10 Commandments is to love God and love and serve people
3. **Authenticity**- being real in our walk and relationships
4. **Creativity**- employing the giftings God has given to us to bless others, especially in Arts
5. **Courage**- learning to walk by faith, not fear

Christian Education will focus on wellbeing in all areas of life – spiritual, mental, social and physical.

Luke 2:52

*<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.*

## TWO: Christian Atmosphere/Environment

Education does not happen in a vacuum, but in an environment. The atmosphere is determined by the people in that learning environment – which includes staff and fellow students. Within the Christian School there are two important factors:

### Staff are committed Christians

Staff determine the atmosphere of the class and also the Christian School. The teacher is a positive role model for students; and has the same values that parents desire for their children. They pray regularly for their students. 'The student will become like their teacher' (Matthew 10:25).

We have asked past students and senior students what they have appreciated most about the Christian School. The most common comment has been that the teachers are positive Christian role models, who genuinely care about their wellbeing in every area. Students like the teachers, respect them and learn from them.

### Dealing Positively with Peer Pressure

In a Christian School, the majority students come from Christian homes, and have a desire to follow God. Students take on the values/beliefs of those around them. 1 Corinthians 15:33 teaches that "bad company corrupts". People are relational; students are relational; and we influence and learn from each other. The values, beliefs and standards of those around us influence and shape us.

## Renew School



An environment where the teachers and peers want to please God encourages Christian values. An environment where the majority are not Christians will not develop Christian values.

Unlike many other schools, students at Renew School learn to relate across year levels generating more of a family/whanau environment.

# Curriculum

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A successful curriculum needs to be founded on basic premises about the world we live in. The following reflect the foundations of the curriculum at Renew School:

- Recognising that we live in a world created, ordered and sustained by God.
- Understanding that God is the centre of the education process which gives students a complete understanding of the world in which they live.
- Education helps us to learn about, interpret and live in the world.



The curriculum aims to help students respond to God and seek their place in His world, serving Him by maximising the skills and abilities He has given them, whilst covering all aspects of the NZ Curriculum.

Renew School is unashamedly Christian. Biblical principles permeate all curriculum areas, and subjects are taught from a Christian perspective. Scripture memory is an integral part of students learning.

### Primary (Years 1-8)

The Primary School lays the foundations for success later in the school. An advantage of the Christian School is that student's progress from Year 1 to Year 13 in the same school so staff are clearly able to monitor academic progress.

The focus for New Entrants is to establish good foundations in basic learning skills, with a real emphasis on learning to read, write and begin to master numeracy.

As students move through the Primary School, they learn using a variety of curricula- always with a Christian emphasis. Some of the features of the Primary School include:

- Low student to teacher ratios
- Staff committed to see students learn to their potential
- Learning support for all akonga (learners) who need it with Teacher Aides
- High Achievement Levels
- Major emphasis on Numeracy and Literacy
- Specialist Science, Technology, Music, Drama and Visual Arts teaching
- Specialist Health and Physical Education Programme
- Sports Programme
- Swimming in heated city pools
- Outdoor Education (Camp) Programme
- Te Reo and Tikanga Māori taught
- Second Language options from Year 7

### **Secondary School (Years 9-13)**

Success in the Secondary School builds on the academic success achieved in Primary School.

The secondary school follows the NZ Curriculum Statements from a Christian perspective. Students are able to develop their God-given gifts and are well prepared for assessment in NCEA . Subjects offered are in keeping with obtaining a sound all round education and give students intending to study at tertiary level the subjects needed as pre-requisites for their courses. The core subjects are taught by experienced teachers. Some subjects may be entered through Te Kura (The Correspondence School) which are monitored by teacher aides and a support teacher. Students enter NZQA Achievement Standards to provide for a good balance of internally and externally assessed credits. Some of the features of the Secondary School include:

- Horizontal Form Classes for years 9-13 with students divided into vertical houses / whanau groups called Rākau groups, i.e. Matai, Rimu, Totara and Tawa. This encourages relationships between peer groups and a family atmosphere.
- Many students gain above the national average in NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3. A number of these are getting endorsements at Merit and Excellence level.
- A number of students have attempted and succeeded well in Scholarship examinations.
- English, Maths, Sciences and Art curriculum areas continue to be a real strength.
- We are committed to excel as the school of choice for Performing Arts.
- The successful 'Gateway' and 'STAR' programmes enable students to explore different work environments, encouraging them to follow the path God has gifted them for.
- The school may make use of 'Trades Academy' courses for key students.

# Pastoral Care

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As a Christian School our role is to teach and train children according to Biblical principles. Staff are professing Christians who are committed to building into the lives of young people. There is huge support within the school environment. We have a school Chaplain to help students with life challenges. We outline clear expectations and boundaries, which emphasises that what we do affects others and brings consequences- good or bad. Consequences for poor behaviour will often involve restorative justice processes.

## Behaviour Management

One of the distinctives of the Christian School is the commitment to work with parents in helping them to educate and prepare their children for service. This means that behaviour management is seen to be a joint venture between the school and the home. Obviously, there are issues that arise on a daily basis where students require immediate correction and the school has policies and procedures for dealing with these.

## General Principles

The Special Character states that the school will provide an environment where children, parents and staff can experience godly relationships, showing the character of Christ in love, discipline, respect, honour and trust. With the behaviour management policy, it is essential that this aspect of the Special Character of the school is maintained.

The goal of the Behaviour Management policy is to have the home and the school working closely together. The Bible places first responsibility for discipline on the home. It follows from this that where a pupil has difficulties, the school will relate closely with the parents to work through any behavioural issues.

Renew School is not 'a school of last resorts' or 'a corrective institution'. While we have seen some wonderful changes occur in students' lives, it does not automatically follow that this will occur every time. The staff will do their best, but in the end the student must also be teachable, take ownership for their own choices; and training at home needs to be effective.

Further, many parents send their children to the school to be protected from negative influences; and they have the right to have that desire upheld.

The School's procedures seek to establish in each student:

- Self-control and a teachable spirit
- Consideration for their own and others wellbeing
- Recognition and respect for authority and deadlines
- Recognition of authority; and having a humble and submissive spirit
- Acceptance and fulfilment of God's will for their life

## Specific Rules

Students are expected to act in an orderly and respectful manner, maintaining Christian standards of courtesy, kindness and honesty. Students are to show respect to those in authority over them, and respect towards other students and their property; and to school property.



The following outline of acceptable behaviour is provided so that consistent standards can be maintained by teachers and teacher-aides supervising students.

- All behaviour is to reflect and uphold good Christian standards and principles. Unacceptable behaviour will result in consequences determined by the nature of the behaviour.
- Students must exercise care in relation to their property and that of others; and must not deface or destroy school property. The expectation is that students will replace or reimburse for damage that is not accidental.
- Students will not threaten, harass, or hurt another student, nor in any way actively seek their unhappiness.
- Students are expected to obey the adult in authority while on school grounds, on field trips or at any school function.
- The use or possession of tobacco, drugs or weapons is forbidden at school, or at any school function.
- Chewing gum is not permitted at school at any time.
- All personal property, books and equipment should be clearly named.
- All staff members and supervising adults are to be treated with respect and addressed by Mr, Mrs or Miss followed by the individual's surname.
- Bicycles, scooters, or skateboards are to be ridden to and from school responsibly. These may only be ridden by their owners and they must wear a helmet.
- No electronic equipment (laptops, i-pads, tablets etc.) can be used within the school except those required for school use.
- Cell phones may be brought to school by students but must remain switched off and not used during school hours, except with a teacher's supervision and permission.
- There shall be no instances of a male and a female student separating themselves from other students in the school environment.

## Learning Environment

The focus of the Christian School is education; which is learning and growing in wisdom, knowledge and understanding. For this to happen effectively teachers in classes must be able to teach and students must take responsibility for their own learning.

This requires that the appropriate learning environments are created and maintained where teachers can teach; and students can learn.

While appropriate guidance and pastoral assistance will be given to help change inappropriate behaviours and attitudes, it is necessary that the learning of the whole class take precedence over that of the individual.

## Consequences

Where students choose to break rules there will be consequences. The expectation is that students will, with parent's support, complete the tasks/impositions placed upon them.

If students choose to negatively impact the education of others through disrupting the learning environment there will be consequences, which include detentions or removal from the learning environment and may lead to stand downs or suspension, which may lead to exclusion. Most consequences will impact the students own learning and they may be required to catch up on work at a later time.

# Family

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The family still has the most significant influence in the lives of children. This shapes attitudes, which are demonstrated in behaviour. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 teaches that it is the parents' role to teach. Parents are ultimately responsible for their children, they simply allow the school to assist in the role of training children, through teaching in the Christian School environment.

One of the distinctives of the Christian School is our commitment to work with parents in helping them to educate, train and prepare their children for the future. This commitment is demonstrated through a close working relationship with parents in every area of the student's development. The Christian School is here to assist parents, particularly in the area of education and development of academic success, which includes the gaining of qualifications.

Teaching and training children to do well academically is a partnership between the home and school. Obviously, this means there will be some expectations we have for the school environment which will impact upon learning.

We would ask you to consider the following as being practical keys which will positively build into the lives of your children:

- Have family devotions, including daily Bible reading and prayer. This will help lay strong foundations in children's lives.
- Teach and expect good manners, respect and obedience from your children.
- Pray regularly for the staff, students and the school.
- Co-operate with staff in matters of behaviour management.
- Stand against criticism of school staff and policy by their child; and use it as an opportunity to contact those involved to check out the accusations made.
- Ensure children have tasks where they can help around home. Expect them to complete these according to your time frame not theirs.
- Have times where you read to/with your younger children. If possible, make this a daily occurrence. Reading will help in academic success.
- Establish boundaries and limits in your home – especially for internet/music/TV/friends.
- Follow through with any work, assignments, or slips to be signed.
- Ensure that your children are punctual, and provide an explanation for absences
- Train your children to respect the property of others.

## Communication

Communication in regard to any areas about school life is crucial, for the school and your children. Please let us know about anything that we need to know which can impact your child's academic success. Please keep us updated on any change of address or e-mail contact.

We would also ask that you are diligent in reading newsletters, attending parent meetings and interviews, and checking the school website.

# Students

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The goal of the Christian School is to teach subjects from the NZ curriculum while encouraging the development of Christian character along with a passion for Jesus. This means a real focus on encouraging Christ like attitudes and behaviour. The expectation of the Christian School is that this is what parents and students are setting as high priorities in schooling, especially in the Secondary area.

We have clear standards and boundaries for all students.

## Appearance

### Undergarments:

Thermals or a short-sleeved T-shirt or similar undergarment may be worn underneath the school uniform *but must not be visible*.

### Hair and personal appearance:

Students hair must be clean and tidy at all times with no extremes of fashion acceptable, e.g. Mohawks, dreadlocks, corn rows, rat's tails, unnatural coloured hair, shaved sections etc. Long hair must be tied back. We would prefer that hair was not dyed, but if it is, natural colours only. Boys should not grow facial hair.

- Make-up is not necessary at school, but if worn must have a natural look.
- In relation to body piercing, female students only may have a single stud in each ear.
- Tattoos are not acceptable for students at this school.

### Uniform

At Renew School we have a mix and match school uniform, which every student is required to wear for all school activities, including the sports uniform for PE.

Students who attend Renew School are expected to wear their uniform correctly at all times - whilst at school, travelling to and from school; and when representing the school.

School Uniform is to be purchased through **Bethell's Whangarei**. (The Strand Shop 14/Vine St.)

#### Boys:

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| • <b>Shorts</b>        | <b>Black with logo</b>       |
| • <b>Trousers</b>      | <b>Black with logo</b>       |
| • <b>Polo Shirt</b>    | <b>Grey with logo</b>        |
| • <b>Socks</b>         | <b>Black with red stripe</b> |
| • <b>Shoes/Sandals</b> | <b>Black</b>                 |

#### Girls:

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| • <b>Shorts/Skort</b> | <b>Black with logo. (Skorts primary only)</b> |
| • <b>Trousers</b>     | <b>Black with logo</b>                        |
| • <b>Skirt</b>        | <b>Black with logo</b>                        |
| • <b>Polo Shirt</b>   | <b>Grey with logo</b>                         |

Renew School

- **Socks**                                 **White ankle sock**
- **Shoes/Sandals**                       **Black**

**Both:**

- **Sweatshirt**                           **Grey with logo or  
Red with logo (Red for primary only)**
- **Jacket**                                 **Black or Grey with logo.  
Two choices- rain jacket (all students),  
Senior lined jacket (secondary only)**

**Year 12/13**

- **Students of Year 12/13 also have a shirt and tie option. A dress blazer is also available.**

**School sun hat with logo** (compulsory at Primary level): All students are encouraged to wear a hat when outside but it must be removed when in class. There is also a school cap and a school beany hat for winter.

Polo shirts may be worn out when worn with shorts but must be tucked in when wearing the sweatshirt.

**Girls:**

- Skirt is to be just above or at knee length.
- Skirts/pants should not be tight fitting.
- White socks with shoes or sandals or black stockings/tights with shoes.

**Notes:**

	<b>Boys:</b>	<b>Girls:</b>
Shoes:	Plain black lace-up low-heeled shoe. There is to be no other colour on the shoe other than white sole, or sports stripes, no coloured tongue or coloured laces. No high tops or boots.	Plain black lace-up or single buckle or strap, low heeled shoe. There is to be no other colour on the shoe other than white sole or sports stripes, no coloured tongue or coloured laces. No high tops or boots.
Sandals:	Plain black sandals, worn with a back strap. These must not be worn with socks or with trousers.	Plain black low-heeled sandals, worn with a back strap.
Socks:	With shorts, black school socks with red stripes must be worn to just below the knee. If students do not wish to wear socks pulled up, they have an alternative in sandals.	White ankle socks or black or natural stockings only.  Worn with shoes only.

### Dress code for education outdoors/camps and for swimming

The guidelines are as follows:

- Girls to wear modest one-piece swimwear and boys swimming shorts not speedos. Rash tops can be worn over swimwear.
- Tops must have sleeves and must be long enough to cover the midriff skin at all times.
  - *Tops should be long enough to reach the top of the legs and should not be tight fitting*
  - *No see-through clothing to be worn*
- Girls are not to wear low cut tops.
  - *It is **not** acceptable to wear strappy, sleeveless, low neckline tops*
- Skin-tight clothing should not be worn.
  - *Skin-tight pants, jeans and leggings are unacceptable, unless a near knee length garment is worn over the top.*
- Shorts/longs are not to be worn in such a way as to reveal underwear. No short 'stubby' type shorts for boys or short shorts for girls.

### Inter-Student Relationships

The objective of Renew School is to create an environment where all students can build and enjoy relationships with each other. The older they become, the more complex these relationships can become. It is important that students are protected from undue peer pressure and expectations regarding relationships with the opposite sex.

Renew School, as a co-educational institution, provides a healthy environment in which boys and girls can learn how to respect each other, and form lasting and meaningful friendships. As students they should feel free to relate to each other, and care for each other regardless of their gender.

With this in mind the School has a very definite policy:

- Conversation of a sexually explicit nature, or racially or gender insensitive is forbidden. This includes sexual innuendo, jokes, and language.
- Displays of physical affection is not acceptable, unless members of the same family.
- Physical contact is limited to curriculum activities and then only under the supervision of a member of staff.
- There is to be no pairing off between students with the intent of pursuing a romantic relationship. Renew School does not support the forming of "romantic" relationships at school since they unnecessarily isolate these students from other students, undermining healthy community and positive student culture in the process. It can also be argued that it is not developmentally appropriate to pursue a romantic relationship while of school age. If you have any questions about this, please make an appointment with the principal.
- Older students must respect and care for the younger students at the school who do not need to be involved in the level of conversation normally associated with older students.
- Mentoring of younger students by older students is encouraged through the Vertical Form system

# Finance

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## Attendance Dues

Attendance Dues are a charge made by the Proprietor of an Integrated School, in agreement with the Ministry of Education, to cover the costs of Capital Development. This money is used to pay for land and building purchase, and repayment of loans used to develop the buildings used by the school. This is not used for the delivery of education to your child but for development of the facilities that the school uses. The Proprietor of Renew School is Christian Renewal Trust, and these payments are required to go to the trust.

## Other Financial Costs

Tuition costs are covered by Ministry of Education grants. This will include swimming.

Stationery items are to be purchased by parents.

Technology classes for Year 7 and Year 8 students are provided off-site at Manaia View School. There is a minimal charge per year to cover the cost of materials used. This is payable to the school.

There may be other costs to cover EOTC camping trips.



# Enrolment Procedures

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## Preference Enrolment

Families who want to be considered as Preference Enrolments need to get the pastor of their church to fill in the Preference Enrolment Form. Preference is then determined by the Proprietor.

Preference Enrolment as defined in our Integration Agreement is where parents have established a particular or general philosophical or religious connection with our school. The Proprietor's Trustees have the right to determine from time to time the Christian beliefs, vision, values and lifestyle that make up the Special Character of the school. The school's Board of Trustees is not able to grant a preference enrolment status to parents of any child unless the Proprietor agrees that these parents have established the necessary degree of connection.

## Non-Preference Enrolment

A limited number of places are available to students who do not meet the above preference criteria. The school may accept up to 5% of the total roll of students as non-preference enrolments.

## Enrolment Process

1. School may be contacted about possible enrolment.
2. An application pack is available on the school website [renew.school.nz](http://renew.school.nz) or can be forwarded/picked up at the school office, which will include a copy of the Prospectus, forms to ascertain Preference and Non-Preference students, Application Forms, School Referral Forms, and other relevant information.
3. A separate Application Form is required for each student.
4. Parents and all children over 13 years old should read the Prospectus.
5. If desired, a visit to the school can be arranged by phoning the School Receptionist between 9.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Opportunity will be provided for prospective parents to be personally escorted around the school by the Principal, or the appropriate Associate Principal.
6. When all necessary requested information has been received, they will be checked by the Office and Senior Leadership Team. Please note that it is the parents' responsibility to furnish documentation. The school may contact the parent where further documentation is required. Renew School may contact the contributing school to request clarification of information received.
7. An interview will be arranged with suitable applicants with parents/caregiver and their child(ren), the Principal, appropriate Associate Principal and a representative from the Proprietor.
8. All parents will be notified by the Principal of the outcome of their application.

It must be noted that waiting lists can and do occur, and the submission of the application forms does not constitute automatic or immediate enrolment.