



# KELSON SCHOOL CHARTER

**‘Inspire to achieve excellence in learning  
for future challenges’**

## THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT - Place of Learning

We create high quality learning programmes that are appealing to students, meet their varying needs and foster a love of learning. In order to achieve this Kelson emphasizes a positive, supportive atmosphere, learning and teaching appropriate to the individual, resources, guidance and support suited to the learner.

## VALUES

**Respect, Creativity, Responsibility, Independence, Confidence, Competency**

## PRINCIPLES

<b>High Expectations</b>	<b>Academic excellence in all areas</b>
<b>Cultural Diversity</b>	<b>Feeling accepted and respected</b>
<b>Learning to Learn</b>	<b>Acquiring the skills to become life long learners</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>Positive relationships through Open Door environment</b>
<b>Coherence</b>	<b>Connected curriculum with literacy and numeracy at its core</b>
<b>Inclusion</b>	<b>Empowering and challenging all learners</b>
<b>Future Focus</b>	<b>Developing a global outlook</b>

## SCHOOL CULTURE

Kelson School community has identified the following important attributes of our school.

- Staff and students working together
- Co-operative teaching strategies with a strong team approach
- A shared vision
- A balanced New Zealand curriculum – emphasis on the essential skills, literacy and numeracy
- An Open Door Policy
- A caring environment encouraging individual achievement and high self esteem
- Modern well appointed facilities and resources
- Many experiences in sport
- Opportunities in Music and Art

- A weekly newsletter
- A partnership between school, home and the community
- Parental involvement in school activities is encouraged
- Recognition of the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi
- Acknowledgment the diversity of other cultures
- The school is the hub of the community

## OUR STUDENTS

The five to eleven year old students and their enthusiasm for learning determine the central focus at Kelson School. We seek to provide many opportunities to explore academic and sporting potential and experience success. Future success is assured if self-esteem and confidence acquired through achievement now is gained. We seek therefore academic excellence in all areas, at the highest levels of competency. Our students will achieve these skills as: -

- Problem solvers
- Technology users
- Co-operative workers
- Self motivated, creative, life long learners
- Confident decision makers
- Communicators

By using the following Key Compencies

- Thinking
- Using language, symbols and texts
- Managing self
- Relating to others
- Participating and contributing

The National Standards will be part of the reporting system which encourages student development and achievement and reporting to against Annual Initiatives to the BOT and parents.

## OUR STAFF

Our staff helps students see both what is learning and why it is worth learning. They encourage students to develop enthusiasm for acquiring knowledge for the purpose of understanding, and to develop initiative and commitment to learn at the pace best suited to each learner

- Staff work together as a Team in co-operative planning for effective learning outcomes
- Teachers are specialists in this area of education
- The students are centered in their teaching
- We value student motivation and life experiences
- We adopt innovative / creative responses to student needs
- We challenge and empower young learners
- Staff use a variety of approaches, resources which acknowledge the learning needs
- Staff provide timely and positive feedback to learners
- We enable students to acquire self esteem from achievement
- Kelson is a stimulating place
- There is a positive, caring relationship between teachers, students and parents.
- We develop a respect and understanding of all cultures

## OUR SCHOOL

Kelson School was opened in 1979.

Kelson School is a co-educational contributing state primary school with classes based on peer groupings from Year 0 to Year 6 (Ages 5 to 11) with a Decile rating of 10.

Kelson School is a single story purpose built open plan school with co-operative planning and flexible teaching bases sited on one level with a large grassed fenced playing field and three large hardstand areas.

Kelson School is situated off the road. The long drive is lined with native plants and ends by the attractive garden area. The south end of the school has magnificent view over the Wellington Harbour entrance.

## **OUR COMMUNITY**

Kelson is a unique suburb of Lower Hutt City situated on the Western Hills.

The suburb has been designed to fit the natural contours of the land thus giving almost every section views of Wellington Harbour and its surrounds.

The Kelson community evolved from a farm holding of Mr. Kels. During 1970 - 1976 the peak development occurred.

The population generally is in the middle socio economic group. The school roll is made up of NZ European 77%, Maori 13%, 3% Asian, Indian 3% and 4% Pacific Island children.

Kelson School has a high level of parental involvement, which is welcomed and encouraged. The Kelson Board of Trustees is elected from this group triennially.

The partnership and involvement of parents is a key link in the children's education and development.

## **AIMS AND PHILOSOPHY**

At Kelson School we seek to develop the academic and social potential of each student with an emphasis on self-confidence, self-esteem, and concern for others.

The special character of the school with the open plan construction, co-operative teaching spaces, Open Door policy, Open Assemblies and its attitudes, perceptions and sensitivity towards its students of Year 0 to 6 are recognised and valued.

We aim to: -

- Place an emphasis on developing Literacy and Numeracy skills
- Identify students who have special needs and abilities
- Maintain learning and assessment strategies that track student progress and achievement

## **OUR APPROACH**

We develop a learning culture, which is totally focused on meeting the development needs of the students.

Students work harder, achieve more and attribute more importance to learning in classes in which they feel liked, accepted and respected by both the teacher and fellow students.

- Teaching includes a wide variety of learning experiences
- A caring environment encourages individual achievement and high self-esteem.
- The individual needs must be met thus extension and second chance learning are features of our programme
- Competency in the basic fields of literacy and numeracy, science, social studies, technology, the arts, health and physical well being and information and communication technology.

## ***Property***

Ten-year maintenance and development programmes to ensure that ongoing programmes are implemented to maintain and improve the standards of the buildings and grounds.

- Major project – Reverting the Dental Clinic into a major resource room
- Providing a dangerous goods annex for the boiler shed
- Beginning the planning for a classroom block modernization

## ***Professional Development***

In the Budget each year provision will be made to support training and development programmes, enhance the abilities of individual employees with the exception that funds used in this way will be reflected in improved employee performance in aspects of their work.

## ***Performance Management***

An effective performance management system involving annual performance appraisals for all staff will be developed and maintained.

## ***Equal Employment Opportunities***

The Kelson Board of Trustees shows commitment to equal opportunities in all aspects of employment including recruitment, training, promotion and conditions of service.

- The staff will receive equal time for classroom release throughout the year.
- Management and Resource teachers will be given time to observe, prepare work and manage resources for their specific positions.

## ***Health and Safety***

The Kelson Board will create and maintain an attractive, healthy and safe environment for all students, staff and visitors to the school.

## ***Budget***

The Annual Budget will be prepared in November taking into account the educational targets of the school and aim to serve the best interests of the students.

## ***MAORI COMMUNITY***

The annual consultation with our Maori Community will be held in June each year. The process will be to invite our Maori families to school to discuss the expectations and actual outcomes of the learning programmes. The School will provide if requested by parents a Maori language course for students through the Correspondence School.

The Annual Plan section will be approved in February.

The Charter will be confirmed by the end of March each year.

The Kelson Board of Trustees has approved this Charter.

Date: March 2011