

Hereworth School Private School Education Review

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On the basis of the information obtained during the review, ERO considers that Hereworth School meets the criteria for registration as a private school set out in the Education Act 1989.

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1 Background

Private School Review Report: Hereworth School

The Chief Review Officer has a statutory duty to report on the performance of private schools throughout New Zealand.

ERO reviews of private schools are significantly different in process and more limited in scope and reporting than those for state and state-integrated schools, focusing as they do on the Criteria for Registration set out in section 35C of the Education Act.

Section 35I of the Education Act 1989 requires the Education Review Office (ERO) to review private schools and to report to the Ministry of Education on whether each school continues to meet the criteria for registration. The schools are privately owned and the legislative requirements are significantly different to those for state and state-integrated schools. Private schools are not required to follow the National Education Goals or National Administration Guidelines.

What does apply in place of the legislation imposed upon state schools by the Education Act is the contract between the persons paying for the tuition of the child at the school – the parents – and the school authority. Those are matters between the parent and the school's governing body. More information about ERO reviews of private schools can be found on ERO's website www.ero.govt.nz/Reviews-Process.

The criteria for registration are that the school —

- a) has premises that are suitable, as described in section 35D; and
- b) usually provides tuition for 9 or more students who are of or over the age of 5 years but are under the age of 16 years; and
- c) has staffing that is suitable to the age range and level of its students, the curriculum taught at the school, and the size of the school; and
- d) has equipment that is suitable for the curriculum being delivered or to be delivered at the school; and
- e) has a curriculum for teaching, learning, and assessment and makes details of the curriculum and its programme for delivery available for parents; and
- f) has suitable tuition standards, as described in section 35F; and

g) has managers who are fit and proper persons (as described in section 35G) to be managers of a private school.

2 Criteria for Registration

Hereworth School, located in Havelock North, is a private preparatory school for Years 1 to 8 boys. The school, owned by the Anglican Diocese of Waiapu, promotes Christian values as part of its special character.

The school's managers attest that they comply with the provisions of section 35G in respect to their being fit and proper persons to manage the school.

Suitable premises and equipment

The premises and equipment are suitable.

The historic building overlooks expansive, park like, well-maintained grounds. A range of facilities enables boys to enjoy their recreation and develop their physical skills.

The high quality learning environment and facilities promote the wellbeing of boys and teachers. Classrooms provide comfortable learning spaces.

The chapel is the cornerstone of the school and is a physical statement of the school's special character.

The board has a carefully considered approach to planning the upgrading of facilities.

Suitable staffing

The school has suitable staffing. All teachers are qualified and registered. Specialist subjects are taught by teachers with appropriate skills and knowledge.

The board seeks to employ teachers who have an understanding and appreciation of boys' learning. There are equal numbers of male and female teachers.

The recently appointed deputy headmaster has introduced an inquiry element to the structured appraisal process that supports staff development.

Suitable curriculum

The curriculum is suitable.

Since ERO's 2010 review the school has adopted the Hereworth Curriculum. This is based on the essential learning areas and key competencies of The New Zealand Curriculum. It is designed to provide a model for the development of a 21st century learner. Science is becoming embedded as a core learning area.

There is an increased emphasis on the development of a curriculum specifically for boys' learning. Christian values are strongly promoted. The recently appointed chaplain teaches a religious education programme that has been devised by the New Zealand Anglican Schools Office.

The curriculum should continue to embed a bicultural perspective to teaching and learning, as outlined in the school's Treaty of Waitangi policy and charter.

Suitable tuition

Suitable tuition standards are evident in this school. Teachers are well organised and interact positively with boys. They employ appropriate strategies to facilitate active, engaged learning. Students are confident, articulate and show genuine enjoyment in all aspects of school life.

There is an expectation that all boys will undertake the full range of academic, cultural, social, spiritual and sporting experiences to the best of their abilities. This expectation is supported by the specialist teaching in purpose built classrooms.

A positive tone in the school supports the learning of all boys. Teachers are respectful and affirming. They take advantage of the appropriate professional development available.

3 Other Statutory Obligations

There are good systems in place for the school's managing body to be assured that its other statutory obligations are met.

4 Other Matters

Provision for international students

The school is a signatory to the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students (the Code) established under section 238F of the Education Act 1989. At the time of this review there were two male international students attending the school.

The school has attested that it complies with all aspects of the Code.

ERO's investigations confirmed that the school's self-review process for international students is suitable.

Provision for students in the school hostel

The Hereworth boarding house, Rainbow, is owned by the Anglican Diocese of Waiapu and administered by the Hereworth School Trust Board. It accommodates 24 boys, 11 percent of the school roll.

The boarding accommodation is of a high standard. Dormitories are attractive, warm and spacious. Boys personalise their own spaces and take responsibility for maintaining them in a clean and tidy condition. Meals are nutritious and menus provide a range of options. There is good provision for study and recreation.

Boarding at the school provides boys with good opportunities for leadership and the development of social skills. Clear routines and boundaries promote good student conduct and self management.

The boarding master provides good leadership for the team responsible for the wellbeing and care of boys. He meets regularly with boys and maintains communication with parents to consider concerns and discuss ideas. Supervision and health and safety matters are well organised. Generally, boys are happy and feel well cared for.

ERO recommends that the trust board provides boarders with more formal opportunities to give feedback about their boarding experience. This could be used in an ongoing way to inform board decision making.

5 Conclusion

On the basis of the information obtained during the review, ERO considers that Hereworth School meets the criteria for registration as a private school set out in the Education Act 1989.

Joyce Gebbie
National Manager Review Services
Central Region (Acting)

30 August 2013

About the School

Location	Havelock North	
Ministry of Education profile number	4108	
School type	Full Primary (Years 1 to 8)	
School roll	201	
Number of international students	2	
Gender composition	Male 100%	
Ethnic composition	NZ European/Pākehā	78%
	Other European	12%
	Māori	5%
	Other ethnicities	5%
Special Features	Hostel and Chapel	
Review team on site	June 2013	
Date of this report	30 August 2013	
Most recent ERO report(s)	Private School Review	August 2010
	Private School Review	June 2007
	Private School Review	May 2004