

Okaihau College

School Prospectus



Vision Statement

Every Child Succeeds ~ Ka whiwhi ia tamaiti te taumata
Every Whanau Celebrates ~ Ka whakanuia e ia whanau
Every Community Strengthens ~ Ka whakakahatia ia hapori

Values

We believe that for every child to be successful we need to enrich their mauri. A way in which we do this is to stand by our Whakarongorua values.

Whanaungatanga

Rangatiratanga

Taha Wairua

Whakatauki

Te ngaru nui a te matauranga

Te ngaru roa o te whai

Eke noa a ngaru paewhenua



Message from the

Principal



Tena koe and welcome to Okaihau College.

We are working hard to ensure that this vision is the reality for our school community. At Okaihau College, we are committed to developing a reciprocal relationship with our whanau. It is important to us that you are involved in your student's learning so that when they succeed, everyone can celebrate together.

Our students enjoy success in a range of areas from academic, through to sports and culture. Students are supported by a teaching staff who are committed to bringing out the best in all our students. We understand that culture counts in education. Students and Whanau bring knowledge and expertise to the classroom and at Okaihau College, we encourage ako where teachers and students learn from each other.

Okaihau College has an extensive student support system, from Whanau Teachers to Nga Pou Herenga (Deans), Senior Leadership Team and our Guidance Counsellors. We are focussed on developing caring relationships focussed on learning. Mauri Ora is fundamental to our school and we work hard to ensure that all our students have a sense of belonging from which they can achieve their personal excellence.

I encourage you to visit us and look forward to welcoming you into our school community.

Nga mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'TD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Davison
Principal

Ko wai tātou? Who are we?

Education was first offered in Okaihau in 1873 in an old log hut along the ridge at Marangai. However, the dampness of the building was bad for the children's health, so the students shifted into the house of the local teacher, Mr Joseph Harrison. Mr Harrison became the first principal of the Okaihau School and in 1874, the first proper school building was opened.

R5 is the original school building which Mr Harrison taught in. The room is made of pitsawn kauri and is still used as a classroom today. The classroom was moved to this site in the 1930s and was transported on logs pulled by bullock teams. Okaihau township got really busy in the 1910s and 1920s when Okaihau became the headquarters for the Public Works Department who were working on the railway line north. Because of the influx of railway workers, more children moved to the area and more schools were required to educate them. Schools sprung up in different areas around Okaihau.

In 1937, the Education Board made the decision to close many of the smaller local schools to make one larger "consolidated" school. This school was established on the current site of Okaihau College. L Block was opened as a brand-new modern school for country children in the north in 1938. If you have a look, you can find a commemorative plaque on the front of the Administration Block showing that the school was officially opened as a proper college on 7 July 1973. This was exactly one hundred years after the first school started in Okaihau. Today we have around 400 students in Years 7 – 13 who travel to school in buses from as far away as Kohukohu, Kaikohe, Mangamuka, Waima and Horeke.



Ngarunui (The great wave)

Ngaruroa (The long wave)

Ngarupaewhenua (The wave that lands upon the shore)

The story of the three sacred waves of Nukutawhiti and Ngapuhi, relate directly to the naming of our kura Roopu (house groups). These are Te Ngarunui (the great wave), Te Ngaruroa (the long wave) and Te Ngarupaewhenua (the wave that lands upon the shore).

Our new Ngaru system, often referred to as a "House" system, is the culmination of meetings we held with whanau, staff and students in 2020.

The names of our three Ngaru link directly to the story of the three waves of Nukutawhiti's journey from Hawaiki to the Hokiana; Ngarunui, Ngaruroa and Ngarupaewhenua.

Whanau Groups

On enrolment at Okaihau College, your child will be placed into a Whanau Class, and the Whanau Teacher will be your first point of contact for learning and pastoral care. Your child will stay with this Whanau Class and Whanau Teacher for the duration of their time at Okaihau College, moving through the year levels as a whanau together. They spend time in their whanau groups to focus on building key social and emotional skills and values, such as resilience, growth mindset and whanaungatanga.



Ngarunui, Ngaruroa and Ngarupaewhenua

Each Whanau Class is part of a larger roopu (Ngaru) - Ngarunui, Ngaruroa or Ngarupaewhenua. Each of these Ngaru comprises one Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 class providing numerous opportunities for tuakana / teina relationships, leadership development and student mentoring. There are many activities throughout the year that provide opportunities to dress up in their ngaru colours and participate in inter-ngaru competitions.



Nga Pou Herenga

Nga Pou Herenga are the 'deans' of each Ngaru. They are tasked with the overall pastoral care of students in their ngaru. Pou Herenga provide the next layer of care and support to students and whanau beyond their Whanau Teacher. Pou Herenga oversee whole ngaru activities and provide opportunities for collaboration between Ngaru.

Restorative Practice

At Okaihau College we aim to promote positive behaviour and to create an inclusive learning environment that will foster well-being and achievement for everyone. We operate from a foundation set firmly in Te Ao Maori, using restorative practices that work with whanau to improve behaviour and relationships. Our approach aims to resolve conflicts and prevent harm, and uses a range of methods and strategies to both prevent relationship-damaging incidents from happening and resolve them if they do happen.

Academic Programme

Years 7 - 10

Junior students in Years 7 to 10 follow a compulsory course covering all eight learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum. These learning areas are the Arts, English, Health and Physical Education, Languages, Mathematics and Statistics, Science, Social Sciences and Technology. Each is given equal importance and therefore equal amounts of time in class. These learning areas are essential for a broad education which maximises opportunities to specialise in the senior school.

English

In English, students learn to communicate effectively using oral, written and visual language. The learning area is structured around two strands where students engage in making meaning of ideas or information they receive (Listening, Reading and Viewing) or creating meaning for themselves or others (Speaking, Writing and Presenting). There is a strong focus on the development of literacy skills which will facilitate learning in all areas.

Learning Languages

Okaihau College offers Te Reo Maori at all levels, and is compulsory for all students in Years 7 to 10. As an official language of Aotearoa, we believe that all students should be as close to bilingual as possible and be able to experience enough tikanga to engage in Te Ao Maori as well as Te Ao Pakeha. All students will learn skills in korero, whakarongo, tuhituhi and panui and will also learn skills in presenting aspects of tikanga.

The Arts

In the junior school students cycle through Visual Art, Maori Performing Arts and Music to ensure they sample each discipline of the Arts curriculum.

In Years 9 and 10 students have more opportunities to choose their preference from the three main options.

In the senior school students continue their previous studies through NCEA and can also choose Design for more computer based art and design work.

Technology

In the junior school students cycle through Design and Visual Communication, Hard Materials Technology, Digital Technologies and Food Technology to ensure they sample each branch of Technology.

In Years 9 and 10 students choose their preference from the four main options so that they have a good knowledge base prior to selecting Senior NCEA options.

Our Technology block is well resourced and is a modern learning environment with several computer suites to assist with e-learning. The Technology curriculum learning areas cover Technological Practice, Technological Knowledge and The Nature of Technology.

Years 11 - 13

Senior students (Years 11 to 13) are required to choose six subjects that they feel are useful for their future career aspirations, wellbeing or are of general interest. Typically there are several options which branch out from each learning area to offer specialisation. Extra opportunities such as Trades Academies and courses are also offered to eligible Year 12 and 13 students which include Cookery, Construction, Automotive, Tourism, Health and Horticulture. Students also have the option to design their own project with a support teacher which contributes to their NCEA in the project POD.

Mathematics and Statistics

All strands of Mathematics and Statistics are offered to students; including number, algebra, measurement, geometry and statistics. Fundamental numeracy skills will be the focus in Years 7 to 10 before a greater emphasis will be placed on application into the real world in the NCEA years. The skills learned in this learning area are transferable into every other learning area and widely applicable in the real world.

Health and Physical Education

This learning area encourages students to learn about their body and their mind, focussing on how physical, mental and spiritual elements come together to produce a healthy lifestyle.

Students will learn practical physical skills, biomechanics, nutrition, mindfulness, sex education and healthy relationships to ensure overall wellness for our students.



Ngarunui (The great wave)



Ngaruroa (The long wave)



Ngarupaewhenua (The wave that lands upon the shore)

Science

Science is a compulsory subject for all Year 7 – 11 students and in the senior school, we have specialist teachers for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The Science Department is well resourced with three fully equipped laboratories. We have a set of tablets, data projectors in each laboratory, class sets of text books for every level, and equipment to support the practical activities and experiments that are essential to the programs.

Our teachers are committed to providing meaningful, relevant courses that foster curiosity. In all topics in the junior school, teachers have memorable hands-on activities that excite and inform the students. Making, measuring, trialling, investigating, dissecting, modelling, observing and communicating are some of the skills that are developed. Students receive individual attention and they feel well supported. Many graduates of our school, have gained tertiary qualifications in medicine, engineering, geology, resource management and other science fields.

Social Sciences

The social sciences learning area is about how societies work and how people can participate as critical, active, informed, and responsible citizens. Contexts are drawn from the past, present, and future and from places within and beyond New Zealand. Junior students study Social Studies which looks at a diverse range of topics including cause and effect of disasters, local history, systems of government, consumer studies, responses to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, conflict including the Northern Wars and the Maori Battalion, sustainability and migration.

Senior subjects within social sciences include Tourism and Geography. Tourism investigates local, national and global tourism. Geography studies the environment as the home of people and how they affect each other. Various topics covered in geography include sustainable tourism at the Poor Knights and in the Bay of Islands; the global patterns of plastic pollution, mountains and earthquakes; topographic map skills are learnt, as well as geographic research skills. Field trips are a large part of Geography.

Education Outside the Classroom





Ngarunui (The great wave)

Ngaruroa (The long wave)

Ngarupaewhenua (The wave that lands upon the shore)



Whakarongorua Marae

Whakarongorua Marae is our on-site school marae and is seen as a step in improving the performance of all students. Our marae meets specific community communication and student learning needs. The role of our marae:

A place where all who meet can feel at home.

A venue for community/school communication.

A learning environment with emphasis on te reo maori and performing arts.

A building that comes from the past but is not constrained by it.

A place that is progressive, special and different.

A place that is closely integrated with the rest of the school systems and buildings.

The spiritual heart of the school.

Rangimarie

Our Special Needs Department is known as Rangimarie, a place of peace and aroha. Our primary function is to provide inclusive learning opportunities for students receiving Ongoing Resourcing Scheme funding through the Ministry of Education and other outside providers. We are a “home away from home”, providing life skills programmes aimed at independent living outcomes, individual education plans supporting learning and helping each of these students to reach their fullest potential. We endeavour to meet the needs of all students requiring extra support through Teacher Aide, individualised class programmes, KidsCan breakfasts/morning teas and providing a “safe space” for anyone who needs care and support.



Careers

Our Careers Advisor is available for a range of services including subject and career planning, tertiary and scholarship information. We offer a number of programmes and initiatives throughout the year, including trips to tertiary institutes and work experience opportunities. Our Gateway programme strengthens pathways for akonga into trades and employment. Gateway programmes are available to Year 12 and 13 students.



Guidance

Okaihau College is staffed by three qualified and registered Guidance Counsellors, providing our students with a range of different approaches to meet their needs. Our Guidance Counsellors offer a confidential service to our students to assist them with anything that may be affecting them at home or at school.



Music lessons

Free tuition in a wide range of instruments is available through the itinerant music scheme. Experienced teachers and itinerant music tutors take lessons during school hours. Some instruments are available for hire at reasonable rental.



Kapa Haka

We have a strong Kapa Haka Group, Nga Wheinga a Rahiri, who perform each year at Te Tai Tokerau Secondary Schools Kapa Haka Festival, in competitions and on important school occasions.



School Lunches by Libelle

We are part of the government's Ka Ora Ka Ako | Health School Lunches programme. This means that a national company, Libelle, provides lunches for every single student, every day. Lunches are designed to be filling and healthy, and range from wraps and sandwiches, to nachos and butter chicken, with menus that change weekly.



**LUNCH
BY
LIBELLE**

Ngarunui (The great wave)

Ngaruroa (The long wave)

Ngarupaewhenua (The wave that lands upon the shore)

Uniform at Okaihau College

JUNIOR UNIFORM

Shirts: Green breezeway polo-shirt with school logo
Green poly/cotton polo shirt with school logo

In terms 2 and 3, a long-sleeved black thermal may be worn under the polo shirt.

Shorts /Pants: Black shorts with elastic waist,
Girls' black shorts,
Black jeans (*no rips or tears*)

Skirt: Black skirt

Hoodies: Green hoodie with school logo

Jackets: Green softshell jacket with school logo

Socks: Plain black or white socks

Shoes: Plain black shoes (*with minor white detailing, white soles ok*)
Plain black sandals (*with a backstrap*)

Hats: Plain black baseball style cap

Beanies: Green beanie with school logo

Plain black beanie

Jewellery: Studs or sleepers, watch, taonga/pounamu

Makeup: Minimal natural make-up, neutral toned nail polish

School Bag: A4 sized backpack (*no fanny packs/handbags*)

SENIOR UNIFORM

Shirts: White breezeway polo shirt with school logo
White poly/cotton polo shirt with school logo

In terms 2 and 3, a long-sleeved white thermal may be worn under the polo-shirt.

Shorts / Pants: Black shorts with elastic waist
Girls' black shorts (*appropriate length*)
Black trousers/jeans (*no rips or tears*)

Skirt: Black skirt (*appropriate length*)

Hoodies: Senior black hoodie with school logo

Jackets: Senior black softshell jacket with logo

Socks: Plain black, white or black/white socks

Shoes: Black, white, or black/white shoes

Hats: Plain black baseball style cap

Beanies: Green beanie with school logo Plain black beanie

Jewellery: Studs or sleepers, watch, taonga/pounamu

Makeup: Minimal natural make-up, neutral toned nail polish

School Bag: A4 sized backpack (*no fanny packs/handbags*)

Communications

All written communications to:

The Principal,
Okaihau College,
58 Settlers Way,
RDI, Okaihau 0475.

Phone: 09 4019030

Email: admin@okaihau-college.school.nz

Student absences: absences@okaihau-college.school.nz

Office Hours

Main Office

Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.00pm (extension 200).

Cell: 021 025 83715

Student Centre

Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.15pm (extension 207).

Cell: 021 086 84071

