

Due to the consistently high demand for places at our school, the Board adopts the following principles and priorities for enrolment decisions when vacancies become available.

The school is committed to ensuring that enrolment decisions are fair, transparent, and consistent with the purpose of our specialist provision. As the number of students seeking enrolment continuously well exceeds the places available, priority will be given to:

1. Students with **Very High ORS funding**.
2. Students with **High ORS funding and Intensive Wraparound Service (IWS) support**.
3. Students with **High ORS funding who are currently enrolled in a mainstream setting or Te Kura where the Ministry of Education and/or the current school has identified that the student's needs cannot be adequately met within that environment**.
4. Students with ORS funding who have siblings in the school
5. Students with ORS funding who are currently in a Specialist School and are moving into our area

Meeting these priority criteria does not automatically guarantee enrolment. When a vacancy arises, the school must also consider the suitability of the placement within the specific class where the vacancy exists.

The Board recognises its responsibility to maintain safe, supportive, and effective learning environments for all students. Therefore, enrolment decisions will take into account the overall composition of the class, including the social, emotional, behavioural, communication, learning, and health needs of both current and prospective students.

In making placement decisions, consideration will be given to factors such as:

- Complex medical and health needs.
- Student vulnerability and wellbeing.
- Behavioural support requirements.
- The ability of staff and resources to safely and effectively support all students within the class.
- The balance of needs within the existing learning environment.

The school acknowledges that there may be circumstances where a student who meets the priority criteria cannot be enrolled immediately because the available class placement is not suitable for that student's needs or may adversely affect the learning, wellbeing, or safety of other students. For example, it may not be appropriate to place a student with significant behavioural needs into a class primarily supporting highly vulnerable students or students with complex medical needs.

The Board therefore authorises the Principal to apply professional judgement, in consultation with relevant staff and agencies as appropriate, when determining the most suitable placement for prospective students. All enrolment decisions will be guided by both the priority criteria outlined above and the need to maintain safe, balanced, and effective learning environments for all students.

This statement will be reviewed periodically to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the school community and reflects best practice in specialist education provision.