

The New Zealand State Education System

Pre-School

2 - 4 years of age

These may be Kindergartens, Play Centres, or Nga Kohanga Reo (for learning Maori language, culture and values).

Primary School

5 - 10 years of age

Years 1-6

Intermediate School

10 - 12 years of age

Years 7 and 8

Most primary and intermediate schools are state schools, but a small number are registered private schools.

Secondary Schools

13 - 18 years (approximately)

Years 9-13

These may also be called Colleges, High schools, or Grammar schools.

All secondary schools in New Zealand teach much the same programmes, so if you shift schools in New Zealand you will be covering the same syllabus, or national curriculum wherever you are.

Some are private schools but most are state schools funded by the Government. All schools prepare students for the same national certificates and qualifications.

Years 9 to 10

All students must take compulsory or "core" subjects, which are

English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, Computers, Physical Education and Health. There are also some optional subjects that differ from one school to another.

Year 11

Since 2002 students are offered New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) Level 1 qualifications, which involves some internal assessment based on Achievement Standards, and an end of year public examination. Students must study English plus four or five subjects. This means that some results are based on work assessed regularly during the school year. Students enrolling late in the academic year may not be able to sit the end of year national examination.

Year 12

In 2003 the National Certificate in Education (NCEA) Level 2 was introduced at this year level. Currently all students must study English and choose four or five other subjects, although International Students usually take ESOL or Alternative English. Students are internally assessed on assignments and tests throughout the year and gain Achievement Standards or Unit Standards. There is also an end of year public examination as at Year 11. In some subjects Unit Standards are offered and are valid qualifications towards the NCEA Certificate.

Year 13

The National Certificate in Education (NCEA) Level 3 is being introduced in 2004. At this level students choose any five subjects. Many of the subjects need to have been studied at Year 12 level in order to take them at Year 13. For example, most languages and science subjects must have been taken at a lower level, but some can be started at Year 13. See the college Curriculum Outline graph in the prospectus for details.

All subjects have an internally assessed component as well as the end of year public examination. The results gained from assessments and the examination in Year 13 will determine whether the student is able to enter a New Zealand university.

Several universities are now offering Foundation courses to International Students who do not qualify for immediate entry.

In some subjects, as well as attempting Achievement Standards and National examinations at Years 11, 12 and 13, students may be able to achieve passes in some Units (called Unit Standards) which will also be recorded on the student's record of achievement. A combination of examination passes and success in Achievement or Unit Standards will qualify the student for National Certificates at Levels 1, 2, or 3 on the National Qualifications Framework.

University Entrance for International Students

- A minimum of 42 credits at Level 3 or higher on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), including a minimum of 14 credits at Level 3 or higher in each of 2 subjects from an approved subject list, with a further 14 credits at Level 3 or higher taken from no more than 2 additional domains on the NQF or approved subjects.
- A minimum of 14 credits at Level 1 or higher in Mathematics on the NQF.
- A minimum of 8 credits at Level 2 or higher in English, of which 4 credits must be in writing and 4 credits in reading. These literacy credits will be selected from a schedule of approved Achievement Standards and Unit Standards.
- Some universities may require in addition an IELTS result of 6.00 or 6.50 or a pass at Level 3 in a subject area with a strong English language component. Subjects such as Accounting, Biology, Classical Studies, Economics, English, Geography, and History are included in this list. The Director of International Students and the Careers Advisor will assist International students with information in this area.

Tertiary Study

Polytechnics Institutes- Institutes of Technology

These offer a wide range of programmes leading to specific occupations in trade, technical or professional levels. There are twenty-five polytechnics nationwide which are all government funded. They are popular because they offer tertiary programmes that can be both academically and vocationally focussed. Entry into a Polytechnic can occur straight from secondary school.

Most Polytechnics have their own English language school. This means that international students for whom English is not a first language are able to obtain language programmes and ongoing study support.

Universities

There are seven universities in New Zealand offering degrees that are recognised worldwide. International students must be aware that not all courses may be open to them and entry standards may be high. Wellington East Girls' College has strong links with Victoria University, which is situated ten minutes from our school. The school will provide assistance with enquiries and with applications to universities if required.

Education Programmes at Wellington East Girls' College

The college offers a wide range of programmes as offered in most secondary schools in this country. Our special strengths are English Language Support (ESOL), Music and Art.

English Language Assistance for International Students

Mrs Linda Todd (B.A., Dip T.E.S.L., Dip Teaching) leads a team of experienced teachers who hold post-graduate qualifications in English language teaching.

After initial assessment, intensive English Language assistance is available for all international students. If necessary, this will be in a small group setting working in our reception class with other students who are recent arrivals in New Zealand. There is no extra charge for this teaching. As soon as the student has reached a level where the school considers she is able to cope in mainstream classes, she will be timetabled into classes with New Zealand students. At this point international students can also opt to do ESOL option classes as part of their programme of language development. In addition, from time to time ESOL teachers and teacher aides support students in mainstream classes, such as Science or Mathematics.

From Year 11 students are prepared for NCEA qualifications in ESOL and English Unit Standards. In Years 12 and 13 an EAP programme (English for Academic Purposes) is run to prepare students for university entrance qualifications.

Music Tuition Scheme

Wellington East Girls' College is well known for its fine tradition of musical excellence. Unlike most schools in Europe and Asia, New Zealand secondary schools offer comprehensive music courses at the Senior level. This means that, if you play an instrument or sing,

you have class time to practise and work towards qualifications in performance. This is supported by lessons in composition, score reading, analysis and the study of a range of music works, all as part of the curriculum.

Students may take private instrumental lessons very cheaply through the school music tuition scheme.

Instrumental teachers visit on a weekly basis and students may be withdrawn from class for lessons that last 20 - 30 minutes. These lessons have been rostered to ensure that pupils will not miss the same lesson every week. The girls are expected to catch up on any work they have missed. They will be issued with passes showing the time of their lessons, though this may vary if tutors have to change their day temporarily. If advance warning is given tutors make allowances for special tests, field trips etc. Many students have become proficient playing an instrument and joined the school orchestra.