

DESCRIPTION OF CARTERTON SCHOOL

2016

Carterton School is a state co-educational full primary school catering for children from New Entrants to Year 8 (5 to 13 year olds). The school is a Grade U5 and is rated decile 6. The site of the school is near the centre of the town adjacent to Carrington Park. The roll of the school fluctuates and in the middle of the year is usually about 300 children.

Over recent years the school has had major building renovation projects and these have provided the school with a new and modern teaching environment, including a new learning studio opened in 2014. The school is in an outstanding setting, which includes a hall, swimming pool and generous grounds.

The school staff is a dedicated team who make a positive contribution to all aspects of school life. There are several positions of leadership – including Principal, Deputy Principal and senior teachers. The school operates in four learning teams led by those with positions of responsibility. Staff responsibilities and Curriculum responsibilities are shared. The teaching staff are assisted with quality Support Staff.

In 2015 we initiated Akonga Māori, a learning team of three classes with a focus on te reo, tikanga and te ao Māori. This year we have two classes, Year 1-2 and Year 3-5.

The Board of Trustees govern the school with outstanding commitment. The achievements of the Board and the Parent Teacher Association have been major factors in school development in recent years. Parent support for the school is always at a high level and is enhanced by the Open Door policy and effective home/school communications.

Innovative developments are a regular feature at Carterton School with some recent developments as follows: - (a) Pre-school Programme for four year olds. (b) A focus on culturally responsive teaching. (c) Development of all classrooms as Modern Learning Environments. (d) Special learning opportunities in Music Tuition and Enrichment Classes. (e) PB4L and Restorative Practice (f) Enviroschool and Health Promoting School. (g) PMP Programme. (h) After School Care facility to assist working parents.

Carterton School has an excellent reputation in the community. This has been created through quality governance by the Board of Trustees, a highly committed staff, high standards of learning in the basics, provision of a wide range of extra learning opportunities, a commitment to innovation and technology, and a true community school philosophy.

DESCRIPTION OF CARTERTON SCHOOL'S COMMUNITY

Carterton is a "country town" of about four thousand people, situated in the Wairarapa Valley 12km south of Masterton and 95km from Wellington. There is also a rural population who rely upon the town for their needs. Farming is mainly dairying with some sheep farms. Two school buses feed the school from the outlying districts with other children using the public commuter bus services on the main highway. An enrolment scheme was introduced in 2013 to manage roll growth. The town's population is increasingly transient. Many people commute daily to Wellington to work. The cost of housing has risen markedly in recent years as Carterton has become a town of choice for many people. The town has a supermarket, excellent medical services and a central accessible railway station. These features, coupled with the pleasant easy going lifestyle, are attracting increasing numbers of Wellingtonians and others to settle in the town.