

START  
YOUR  
LEGACY ▶



NELSON COLLEGE

TE KURA TAMATĀNE O WHAKATŪ

PREPARATORY SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



# WELCOME NAU MAI, HAERE MAI

Founded in 1856, Nelson College is recognised throughout New Zealand as a leader in boys' education in and beyond the classroom.

Nelson College Preparatory School (Prep) is a unique learning environment. It is the only independent boys' school attached to a secondary state school in New Zealand.

Our vision is to create a learning culture where all boys have the confidence to take risks, engage in experimental learning, persist in problem-solving and work through creative processes designed to engage them in the world they live in.

We aim to make a difference to every individual, preparing our rangatahi for a smooth transition to college. We have access to a large number of facilities on site at Nelson College and combining the best practices of primary and secondary schooling for our Year 7 and Year 8 students.

Our greatest resource is our passionate and highly experienced staff. We use a range of innovative teaching approaches to deliver a responsive curriculum that balances 'self-directed' learning and 'explicit' teaching of content, both of which are essential for academic advancement.

# POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

## HE AHA TE MEA REREKĒ



We understand boys and the importance of dedicated preparation for the transition from primary to secondary education. Prep is designed to optimise this transition.

We have identified our 'points of difference' which we believe are central to our uniqueness in educating and preparing boys for their future:

- Educators with knowledge and experience in teaching boys
- High interest units of study designed for boys
- Teaching of creative thinking skills
- We know how boys think and how they like to learn
- Wide range of literacy programmes to suit all abilities
- Opportunities to develop leadership skills
- A clear and fair discipline system with consistent boundaries
- Boys are celebrated for being boys

# ENRICHMENT

## WHAKAHAUMAKO



Prep supports students at all academic levels and offers a challenging enrichment education programme.

Our inquiry topics allow students to explore subjects that interest them, giving them an opportunity to explore deeply and to read and research widely.

### MATHS

Maths classes are differentiated to meet the needs of all students. The extension maths group studies a range of challenging maths activities, including Otago Problem Solving, and there is the opportunity to represent the school at the Nelsomathix competition.

We encourage Year 13 senior College students to mentor our Prep boys.

### FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING

Future Problem Solving (FPS) is a prestigious international programme established in the 1970s. The programme is held in high regard by educators and researchers from around the world. The strength of this programme lies in the high level skills and competencies students develop, that enable them to grapple with the future.

Further extension programmes include: Kids Lit Quiz, Nelsomathix Competition, Chess, Enviro Club, Aquabots and Epro8 Challenge.

### READING & WRITING

In class, all students are grouped according to their ability, with the extension readers given challenging comprehension pieces and texts to consider. In writing lessons, extension opportunities are part of each writing class.



## LEARNING AKORANGA

### ► LITERACY

Our multi-faceted literacy programme uses class time, one-on-one tuition and computer-based learning to promote growth and confidence for all boys, from those in need to advanced readers.

Prep's unique 'Literacy Support Programme' helps students to acquire essential literacy skills. This innovative programme incorporates five levels of support to cater for students of all abilities.

We assess each student at the start of the year and this early assessment ensures your son's particular needs are immediately identified and individually catered for.

### MUSIC

Here at the Preparatory School, we are proud to offer a diverse range of practical musical and band options to give our boys the best opportunity to engage in the musical life of Nelson College.

We provide opportunities for boys to take part in private and small group lessons within the itinerant music scheme run through Nelson College. Options are available for students to learn a diverse range of instruments from woodwinds and brass through to strings, vocals, piano, guitar and drums.

As their practical ability develops, we encourage our Prep boys to participate in as much ensemble playing as they can, to develop their ability to perform and enjoy playing instruments within a team.



# PROGRAMMES

## HŌTAKA



### STEAM

Science Technology Engineering Art Maths

STEAM classes foster students' science, technology, engineering, artistic and mathematics skills and it complements work done in other areas of the curriculum such as English, social science, languages and the arts.

The concept of this class is to create a hands-on, creative environment where students can develop their technological confidence and problem-solving skills.

It sees the boys using a wide range of materials and tools to tackle real-life challenges.

The STEAM programme involves:

- Interactive learning content as well as classroom experiments and hands-on activities.
- Weekly timetabled STEAM lessons for all students takes place in a dedicated classroom space.
- Students design, build, repair, simulate, test and play with a huge range of interesting and stimulating projects.
- A belief that every student can and will achieve!

### ENCOUNTER

Outdoor Experiential Education

ENCOUNTER stands for:

- E**nvironmental education
- N**ew connections
- C**ultural awareness
- O**utdoor pursuits
- U**nderstanding responsibility
- N**o or limited digital technology use
- T**ogetherness
- E**ureka moments
- R**esponse to community needs

ENCOUNTER is an integral part of learning at Prep. It emphasises real life experiences, often beyond the classroom walls, and hands-on learning.

ENCOUNTER accounts for the differing learning styles of our rangatahi. We recognise that many boys' learning can happen outside the classroom in a practical setting. It's about teaching boys a sense of responsibility and provides a link to the community. It also offers opportunities for mentoring, leadership and friendship.



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For information please visit our website.

[www.nelson.school.nz](http://www.nelson.school.nz)

## ENQUIRIES

Ph: +64 3 548-3099

Email: [prep@nelson.school.nz](mailto:prep@nelson.school.nz)

Postal Address:

Private Bag 16, Nelson 7040  
New Zealand

Physical Address:

67 Waimea Road, Nelson 7010  
New Zealand

[www.nelson.school.nz](http://www.nelson.school.nz)



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