



KINDERGARTEN TO SCHOOL TRANSITIONS POLICY

Policy Statement

1. Te Rā Waldorf School and Te Rawhiti Kindergarten generally consider children to be ready for school between 6½ and 7 years. The developmental readiness of the 6-year-olds is assessed by their kindergarten teachers, against a range of indicators which reflect the principles of Waldorf pedagogy.

A Kindergarten to School Transition Group (KGSTG) will convene in term 4 of each year to receive and review recommendations for school readiness of all 6-year-olds from their kindergarten teachers. Recommendations for children with birthdays in August, September and October will be reviewed in greater depth. This is to ensure that these children, who would not yet be 6½ years old by the time Class 1 begins, have had sufficient opportunity to reach a developmental stage which would enable them to successfully integrate into Class 1.

Scope

2. This policy and the procedures set by it apply to all children who have turned 6 by 31 July of the year prior to their potential transition to Class 1, with consideration also given to children who turn 6 in August, September or October of that year.

Guidelines

3. The KGSTG has a dual function:
 - i. to communicate school readiness recommendations to the parents and whānau of each child
 - ii. to discuss questions raised through inclusive processes, in order to reach a mutually acceptable decision about a child's transition
4. The KGSTG reflects the integrated nature of Waldorf education; kindergarten and school collaborate in the review of transition recommendations. Its members are the Principal, two school teachers, and two kindergarten teachers (one of whom would always be the KG teacher related to the child in question). Where questions are raised about the recommendation for a child the parents or whānau of the child will also become part of the KGSTG.

This policy meets the aims of National Administration Guideline 1

Board of Trustees Policy

Policy Dates

Ratified by Board: Sylvia Madden Signed for BoT

28/1/2016 Date

To be reviewed: Triennially

KINDERGARTEN TO SCHOOL TRANSITIONS PROCEDURE

KGSTG IS FORMED

The Kindergarten to School Transition Group (KGSTG) is confirmed in term 4 after the last child in the cohort has turned 6.



KGSTG RECEIVES RECOMMENDATIONS

The Kindergarten Teachers present their recommendations regarding transition to Class 1 to the KGSTG.

The KGSTG identifies those recommendations where questions about a child's transition to Class 1 have been raised by either the Kindergarten Teacher or Whānau.



EXPLORATION MEETING

Questions raised are initially explored in a meeting of KGSTG, and Kindergarten Teacher and Whānau of the respective child.



RESEARCH / OBSERVATION

The KGSTG researches the questions. This may involve observations of the child by a member of the KGSTG (not his/her teacher) or a therapist such as the Extra Lesson Practitioner.



EVALUATION MEETING

The KGSTG meets again with the Kindergarten Teacher and Whānau of the respective child to present the findings from the research/observation.

These findings are discussed in the circle with the aim to come to a decision about the transition.

There are two possible outcomes:

1. A mutually agreed decision
2. Disagreement

MUTUALLY AGREED DECISION

DISAGREEMENT

REVIEW MEETING

The KGSTG meets without the Kindergarten Teacher and Whānau to discuss the issue and make a final decision.

This decision is communicated to the Kindergarten Teacher and Whānau.

Whānau are given a process feedback form along with the decision.

CONFIRMED CLASS 1 TRANSITION RECOMMENDATIONS

All parents and whānau are notified of the confirmed recommendations regarding the transition of their child or children to Class 1 of the following year (this includes recommendations to allow a child another year in the kindergarten).