



Self Regulator



Thinker



Innovator



Collaborator



Challenge Taker

# Opaheke School

*Sharing, Caring, Learning and Achieving*

Opaheke School is a full primary school situated on the south-eastern fringe or Papakura. Its grounds are attractively laid out and cover 2.09 hectares. The school is located roughly 2 kilometres from the Papakura Central Business District.

Historically, the Opaheke area preceded Papakura. On older maps the school zone was depicted as being part of the Opaheke parish area.

Opaheke School was built in 1968 with 8 classrooms. Since then, others have been added and there are now 20 classrooms and 2 larger learning hubs. The school roll peaks at around 600 students, however, there is an enrolment plan approved by the Ministry of Education that has enabled the Board to exercise some control over school growth. Currently 29% of the school roll is made up of out of zone students and there is always a strong demand for applications every year from those outside of the local catchment.

A major feature in 1999-2000 was the recapitulation of Opaheke School to full primary school status. There are usually 5-6 classes of Year 7 and 8 students each year.

Opaheke School draws its zoned students from a mixed socio-economic base. About 8-10% of students transit via school bus from the Ponga Hills area where lifestyle blocks are predominant. The school itself is in a fairly middle class housing area populated by a mix of younger and older families. It is significant that real estate agents use Opaheke School as a major selling point for their sales strategy. As a result, houses in the school zone are well sought after. Like other areas of Auckland, Opaheke is experiencing a large amount of infill housing and a large subdivision is being developed within the school zone.

In keeping with most of south Auckland's urban area, the students are of increasingly multi-cultural origins especially Pasifika and Indians. The majority of the school roll is of European descent with 25% of our roll identifying as Māori. Bi-cultural history is an important aspect of our school. Opaheke School is ranked as Decile 4.

Opaheke School has established a very positive reputation in the community as a high quality school. This is due to strong behavioural values that are encouraged in everyday school life and are the soul of who we are and how we live.

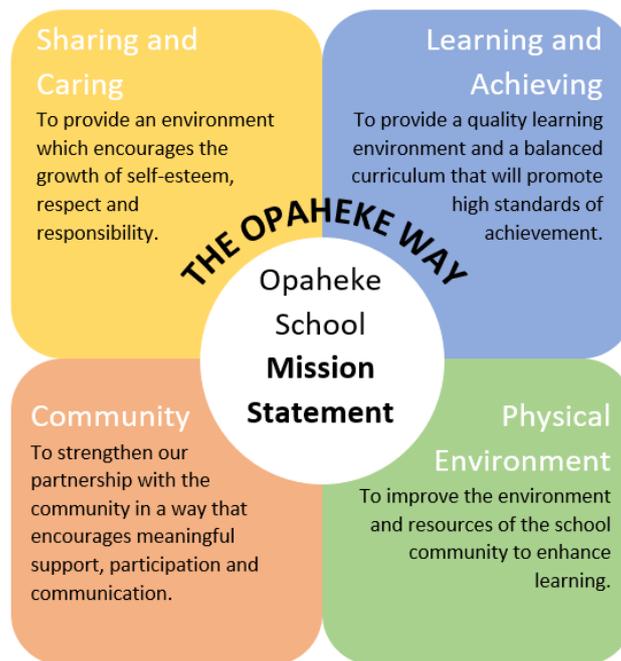
The teaching and support staff are loyal, conscientious, hardworking and dedicated to the students ongoing academic and general success. There is a well developed culture and camaraderie among staff and high degree of expertise. Staff attrition is minimal and there have only been 4 changes of principal since the school's inception. The low turnover and the high quality of staff performance and motivation have helped to support the operational stability in the school and its relationship with the student and parent community.

Our Board provides excellent support for the school and staff. This includes the area or professional learning where teachers can gain additional professional qualifications and have their course reimbursed. Recently, much of the Board's focus has been on major modernisation and building programmes with most classroom interiors and the staffroom being completely refurbished and learning hubs created.

As well as creating the correct environment for the best learning outcomes the current Board's priority is to develop and implement strategies that define how the school can best use technology to enhance the education of the students in a digital learning age.

The school has an enthusiastic Parent Teacher Association (PTA) who support the staff and students by holding various fundraising and social events. These are well patronized by the parent community who are generally engaged in school life.

**The Opaheke School Vision**  
Empowering our community of learners to confidently meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Students are involved in a wide variety of learning activities including speech contests, inter-school sports, school based sport, enrichment learning activities, learning languages, the Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP), kapa haka and robotics. Every year the Year 5 & 7 classes participate in an Education Outside the Classroom programme for 3-4 days while the Year 6 & 8 students attend a 3-4 day camp off site. Students in Year 7 and 8 also have the opportunity to go to a Sports Camp each

## Core Values for our School (STAR)

- ✓ Striving for Excellence
- ✓ Achieving Personal Best
- ✓ Teamwork
- ✓ Respect for Self and Other