



BALMORAL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 2025



www.balmoral.school.nz



Tēnā koutou e te whānau he mihi nui kia koutou katoa Welcome to Balmoral Intermediate School

We are a thriving, boutique Intermediate School, catering specifically for the needs of the emerging adolescent. Your child will spend two years at our school in a safe and supportive environment where positive mental health is seen as a foundation for learning. Our focus is on providing a broad education that intellectually challenges and supports children to become curious, confident and connected learners. We value all children as individuals and cater for their strengths and learning needs. Balmoral Intermediate is a school where children feel known and supported by staff and each other.

The most recent ERO review (December 2023) list of our strengths include:

- a strong sense of belonging for learners, staff and the school community
- a highly valued and well-established local curriculum where promoting critical thinking with learners is fostered
- strong partnerships with professional networks that support the school's direction

These in turn, ensure that our children are interested, motivated and active participants in their learning and that a joy of learning drives them to a real sense of accomplishment. The Balmoral curriculum is one where curiosity, challenge, critical thinking and creativity are valued outcomes.

Intermediate school offers your child the opportunity to try a wide variety of new activities, make new friends and develop independence. We aim to prepare your child to have the skills, attitudes and confidence to be successful, happy and thriving learners at secondary school and beyond.

We very much look forward to meeting with you and your child in the near future.

Nāku kōwhiri,



Malcolm Mair

Turuaiki - Balmoral School



Trish Cullen

Turuaiki Tuarua - Balmoral School



OUR
VISION

TO VALUE DIVERSITY, AND
TO DEVELOP CURIOUS,
CONFIDENT AND
CONNECTED LEARNERS



Balmoral Habits

Children at Balmoral School are encouraged to ask, "What is the most intelligent thing I can do right now?" To support them in answering this question, the Balmoral Habits are taught explicitly. These habits, based on the New Zealand Curriculum Key Competencies, are:

- Thinking
- Persisting
- Creating
- Managing Self
- Communicating

The Balmoral Habits serve as mental disciplines that equip children when they are confronted with problematic or challenging situations, now and in the future.



Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy and Numeracy form the foundation of all learning at Balmoral School. Skills, knowledge and strategies are explicitly taught in both Literacy and Numeracy. There is also ample opportunity for children to further develop and demonstrate these skills in all areas of their learning.

Literacy

The literacy programme is structured around making meaning of ideas and information (listening, reading, viewing), and creating meaning for self and others (speaking, writing, presenting). Our programme focuses on all aspects of literacy including spelling, grammar, oral language, comprehension and critical thinking. We have a very well-resourced library with two experienced and knowledgeable librarians. This supports our rich, broad literacy programme.

Numeracy

Our mathematics programme develops existing numeracy skills while further enhancing the other areas of mathematics that children need for success at secondary school. Maths investigation work and problem solving underpin our mathematics programme.



Inquiry

"To be truly educated is to know how to be a skilled inquirer, that means knowing, understanding many things but also - much more important than what you have stored in your mind - to know where to look, how to look, how to question, how to challenge, how to proceed independently, to deal with the challenges that the world presents to you...in co-operation and solidarity with others."
(Noam Chomsky - On being truly educated, 2015)

Our Inquiry focus provides children with learning contexts that are authentic and engaging. These contexts, developed in conjunction with the children, cover the whole of our broad curriculum and allow children the opportunity to increase their knowledge, acquire new skills while practising previously learned skills, and be challenged in their thinking. At its core is developing in all ākonga a sense of 'wonder' so ultimately they stay engaged in their learning. We aim to develop agency, curiosity, collaboration, authenticity and depth in their learning.

Philosophy for Children (P4C)

P4C aims to develop children who are creative, critical, caring thinkers. Some of the many skills practised in a P4C session include stating and explaining an opinion, listening to alternative points of view, being open to changing one's mind, drawing conclusions, justifying ideas using examples and using reasoned arguments. Many P4C sessions focus on ethical dilemmas where the children are supported to examine all sides of an argument and come to a solution or change their mind based on evidence.

Learning about Learning

All members of our learning community (children, parents, teachers) are encouraged to experience different challenges, be innovative, make mistakes, identify weaknesses and strive for continued achievement. We encourage children to reflect on and discuss how and what they are learning and why they are learning it. This enables them to identify next learning steps and further develop their learning capabilities.



Our Staff

We have dedicated, highly professional staff who are trained in teaching children aged 11-13 years. We work on a separate campus from our Primary school in modern, purpose built facilities.

Our teachers have an in-depth knowledge of the New Zealand Curriculum and they are consistently involved in high quality professional development in all areas of this curriculum. They care deeply about our children and are aware of the specific social, emotional and physical issues children are dealing with, as well as their desire for an increased independence.

Your Child

Every child is unique and we look forward to developing their talents in a variety of ways as well as building on the strengths they already have. Research informs us that this is a critical period in a person's life, when the emerging adolescent experiences substantial physical and emotional change. Our curriculum recognises this and is built around these aims:

- 1 **Relevance:** ensuring the curriculum provides children with 'real world' authentic contexts.
- 2 **Responsibility:** designing a curriculum which gives students appropriate self-control over learning and accountability.
- 3 **Belonging:** creating a supportive and safe environment that gives children a sense of acceptance and affirmation.
- 4 **Awareness:** supporting self and social awareness through the learning opportunities provided.
- 5 **Engagement:** meeting developmental needs by providing tasks that are motivating and challenging. Engagement needs to be behavioural, emotional and cognitive.
- 6 **Competence:** supporting children to develop personal expertise, knowledge and skills.
- 7 **Ethics and Morality:** facilitating ethical awareness and developing personal values.





Your child will be provided with opportunities to engage in a variety of specialist learning programmes, in specially designed classrooms to enhance learning. These classes include:

- Hard Materials Technology
- Visual Art
- Music
- Science
- Textiles Technology
- Food Technology
- ESOL classes
- Learning Support classes

In Specialist classes, children could find themselves making an LED light installation using our laser cutter, designing a rocket or some jewellery, creating musical instruments, exploring electronics or impressionist art, planning a gift basket or making their own sports bag. The emphasis is on creativity alongside developing skills and working to a brief.

Arts and Cultural Experiences

The Arts and Culture are an important part of life at Balmoral Intermediate. Children have the opportunity to find new passions, explore their creative tendencies, express themselves, and set themselves new challenges. In addition to school-organised activities, private music tuition opportunities are available in our purpose-built music suites in our Arts Centre.

Some of the activities and clubs on offer are:

- Bands
- Choir
- Kapa Haka
- Culture Groups
- Chess Club
- Orchestra
- Kid's Lit Quiz
- E-Sports
- Eco-Warriors
- Kawepūroongo (Student newspaper)
- Running Club
- Robotics



Sports Programmes

Sport plays a key role in children's development. Sporting activities teach them to be competitive and supportive. It can help them make friends and feel a sense of belonging. Through sport they can also learn to accept being defeated and develop resilience. We have a heated pool, netball courts, cricket nets, a football/rugby field and a gymnasium in our Sports Complex.

Class PE and Sport

Physical Education and Fitness are built into the weekly timetable, along with a regular intermediate sports afternoon.

School-wide Sport

We organise inter-house sports competitions including Swimming Sports, Cross Country and Athletics.

Inter-school Sports

Students have the chance to compete against other intermediate schools in a range of sports including:

League Tag, Hockey, Volleyball, Badminton, Cricket, Waterpolo, Touch Rugby, Football, Cross Country, Netball, Basketball, Athletics

National Sports Tournament (AIMS)

Our school has been involved in AIMS, the national intermediate sports tournament in Tauranga, since its inauguration. Students have represented us in the following sports:

Swimming, Football, Water Polo, Tennis, Hockey, Netball, Cross Country, Gymnastics and Sailing.

Ski Team

Our team, with parental support, train at Snow Planet during Term 2, and compete in the schools' yearly competition at Ruapehu.



Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC)

Over their two years at Balmoral School, your child will have the opportunity to take part in several EOTC opportunities including:

Narrows Park (Year 7)

This valuable experience just outside Hamilton includes planning and cooking camp meals, team building, navigation skills, a day at Maungatauriri and more. As this camp occurs in the first term, it is a great way for children to get to know one another.

Pinnacles Tramp

Year 7 children can complete a leadership tramp to the Pinnacles Hut in the Coromandel.

Motutapu Island Camp (Year 8)

In Year 8 your child has the opportunity to attend a camp at Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Here they continue to build on the skills they learned in Year 7 in a unique and very special environment.

Other EOTC Opportunities

These range from trips to Rotorua Island, Waiareia, Tree Adventures at Woodhill and many others. These are generally linked to the inquiry that is happening, and are planned as a way to enhance children's understanding of the concepts being taught.



Pastoral Care

We have very high achievement expectations for all our children. We encourage them to develop a growth mindset, resilience and determination to overcome challenges. Running alongside this is our firm belief that children need to feel safe and supported at school, that they can be who they are and feel free from intimidation. Our staff ensure that any issues are followed up and that children are aware of the consequences of their behaviour. We have well-established procedures to keep children safe and you can feel this caring atmosphere as soon as you enter our gates. Children make lifelong friends here and feel a part of our community.

ENROLMENT PROCESS

Open Day

for prospective students and their whānau
Wednesday 31st July 9.15am or 6pm

In-Zone Applications

www.balmoral.school.nz/intermediate-enrolments
Applications in by Wednesday 11th September at
3pm

Out of Zone Applications

www.balmoral.school.nz/intermediate-enrolments
Ballot closes Wednesday 4th September at 3pm
Ballot drawn Wednesday 11th September
Applicants notified by Wednesday 18th September

Orientation Morning

Wednesday 4th December 9.15am
Details will be emailed to all enrolled children
at the beginning of Term 4



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Any queries please contact
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