

Avondale College Charter 2020



AVONDALE
COLLEGE

Kohia Ngā Taikākā

Seek the Heartwood

To strive after the best things in life and to work, play and act in a manner that will bring credit to each individual and to the College

1. TYPE OF SCHOOL

Avondale College is a co-educational secondary school with students from Year 9 to Year 13.

2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL

Avondale College is a large, suburban, co-educational, state secondary school.

The College is located in central/ west Auckland, in one of Auckland's older suburbs, where many long-established homes and businesses give the area a sense of identity. The area is going through a phase of rapid demographic change with the development of Auckland. One of three schools on adjoining sites, Avondale College is fortunate in having its own spacious and attractively landscaped grounds and courtyards.

A major building redevelopment programme to effectively rebuild our classrooms and provide the most modern teaching and learning spaces with a quality environment was completed in March 2014. At the 2015 NZ Architecture Awards, the citation includes "A multi-stage redevelopment of a large secondary school has produced an outstanding new learning environment that meets contemporary needs while keeping continuity with the school's pedagogical legacy". It also noted that the Atrium, and many sustainability features were funded by the Board of Trustees (above and beyond standard Ministry of Education funding) that is ambitious for students' progress in education and life.

The College's facilities include the Avondale College Performing Arts Centre, a sports stadium offering squash courts and gymnasium seating up to 1,000, a new all-weather playing surface for netball and tennis, a fully equipped recording studio, two purpose built dance studios, a library offering extensive computer and printed resources, and an open air theatre. It also has an artificial turf and pavilion. The facilities are open to the community and are well used by a variety of groups.

Specialised teaching facilities include a Whare Wananga and a large Fine Arts Department, with the Ferguson Building housing the largest modern technical facilities in New Zealand. The IT network operating at Avondale College, which is continuing to be augmented, is the largest school network in the country and the Music Department enjoys a reputation as one of the best in New Zealand. The College has a dedicated International Student Department, responsible for the pastoral care of our students who arrive from all corners of the globe.

A unique feature of the school is its Taurewa outdoor education programme run near National Park in the Central North Island.

The school also has a community Childcare Centre on site that is run by a committee overseen by the Board of Trustees.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL'S COMMUNITY

Avondale College serves a socially and culturally diverse community within the immediate catchment area, centred on Avondale and extending across a wide area of Auckland, being well served by public transport. Community support for the College has been strong over many years. The College has fostered and enjoys a strong relationship with its contributing schools and communities.

4. MISSION STATEMENT

In a caring and positive environment Avondale College will provide an education which enables all students to achieve personal standards of excellence in academic work as well as in the supporting areas of physical, cultural and social development.

5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Avondale College is committed to a quality education in which students are being prepared to be the best they can be to participate fully in our ever-changing world.

The Board of Trustees and College staff will ensure that this education will address their learning needs and respect their dignity.

All school activities will be designed to advance these principles.

6. SCHOOL COMMUNITY

To uphold the partnership between school, families, and community, Avondale College promotes an open-door policy to encourage full community involvement in the school. In addition to inviting the school community to engage with all school activities, the Board will meet and consult with its community using these methods:

- **Meetings:** Board and sub-committees, Whānau group meetings, Māori community meetings, Pasifika community and parents' meetings, Parent Teacher interviews, Curriculum and Careers Information Evenings, various parenting seminars, Year 9 Parent Meetings, organisation and communication for cultural festivals.
- **Events:** Academic, sporting, cultural, service and social events.
- **Surveys:** Including student voice, staff and surveys of parents and caregivers.
- **Communications and Publications:** Taikākā yearbook. Weekly and term newsletters, email, website, Twitter, Instagram and the Facebook page
- **Family and Student Connection:** Parent, student and community portal.
- **Reporting to parents:** Academic, sporting, cultural, service and social development.
- **Informal qualitative feedback**

7. CULTURAL DIVERSITY & THE MĀORI DIMENSION

- **New Zealand's cultural diversity**

Students are encouraged to share elements of their cultural heritage to celebrate New Zealand's cultural diversity.

All staff will treat students as individuals with unique differences, talents and cultural values and perspectives that will be respected.

Differing cultural backgrounds of students are viewed as adding to the tapestry and strength of the school.

The students' identities, languages, abilities and talents are recognised and affirmed in inclusive and contextualised ways.

- **The unique position of the Māori Culture**

The Avondale College curriculum acknowledges the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, respecting tikanga, and the bicultural foundations of Aotearoa New Zealand. The curriculum will be responsive to the national priorities for ākonga.

The College will consult with our Māori communities regularly. The Board has established a relationship with our Tangata Whenua liaising with a Kaumatua. The Board will appoint a Trustee to work in partnership with a member of the Executive to facilitate this process.

Avondale College provides a Whare Wānanga, from which a multi-level whanau home room class operates. This provides a sense of place and family within a culturally appropriate environment.

This cultural foundation is supported by Te Reo classes (offered as an option in all Year levels), and Te Roopu o Pātiki (Kapa Haka group) is fostered and supported.

Māori cultural trips will be encouraged to foster engagement, pride and achievement.

Avondale College will host a Powhiri for Year 9 students, new staff, Senior Prize Giving and honoured guests of the school.

8. OUR GOALS

“Our Aim is Excellence”

As a result of our strong sense of community and connectedness, we would like departing Avondale College students to be:

- **Confident**
 - Socially confident and equipped with strategies and key competencies to enable them to cope in the future.
 - Able to take on new challenges.
 - Self-disciplined, demonstrating integrity, resilience and a strong sense of self-efficacy.
 - Competitive.
- **Connected**
 - Effective communicators.
 - Responsible and respectful of others, self, property and the environment.
 - Contributing members of the global community.
- **Actively involved**
 - Actively involved and contributing to the well-being of their communities.
- **Lifelong learners**
 - Motivated learners who take pride in their achievements.
 - Thinkers; skilled, knowledgeable, inquisitive, critical and creative.
 - Numerate and literate.
 - Able to make informed decisions.
 - Life-long learners who enjoy the challenge that learning brings.

9. OUR VALUES

- **Honesty – We will be trustworthy, fair and do the right thing**
- **Endeavour – We will give maximum effort to achieve our goals**
- **Atawhai – We will be kind, considerate and care for one another**
- **Respect – We will have respect for self, others and our environment**
- **Tenacity – We will demonstrate perseverance and show determination**

