

Other agencies we can access for help and support

a) Resource Teacher of learning and behaviour (RTL B)

This is a group of teachers based at Vauxhall School. They work across all local schools and give support and advice for managing students with behavioural difficulties and/ or have specific learning issues. Their services, obtained by school referral along with parent permission, will typically include home visits and meetings between home, school and other agencies to develop an individual learning plan for the child. RTL B only have children on their books for 30 weeks but this can be renewed in some cases.



b) Group Special Education (GSE)

This is a branch of the Ministry of Education. Their main foci are high needs students, speech therapy, early childhood transition and severe health needs. GSE staff develop learning plans and sometimes provide funding resources. GSE also provide services such as trauma counselling and access to specialised psychological advice and support.

c) Public Health Nurse

This nurse, attached to the Health Department, can provide support for parents and children in the home for a range of health, welfare and behavioural needs. The nurse also provides education and support to the school staff in managing particular health needs.

The nurse can also access a range of related services such as Child and Family counselling, Wilson Home, Marionoto and others.



d) Others

The school can access a range of services for specialised help such as Truancy services, Speech therapy, Social Welfare, Resource Teacher of Literacy,

Resource teacher of Maori, English as Second Language agencies and so on.

Due to constraints on space and negative impacts of interruptions to the school day, we ask parents who wish to hire a private tutor to arrange this for times outside school hours.

We hope this information is useful. Please ask if some aspect is unclear or you need more information about any specific aspect mentioned above.



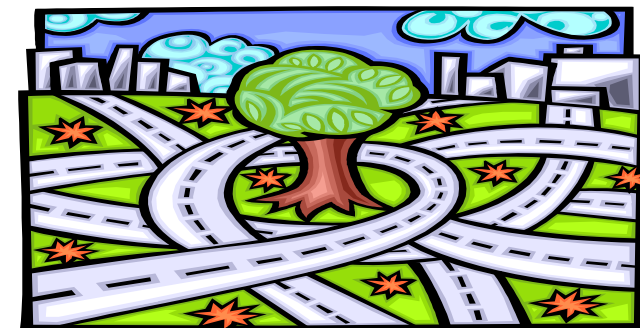
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S Hardcastle MA, BA, ATCL
Devonport School
Ph 445 -0183



Devonport School Special Needs

While most children at Devonport excel, some need extra help.

There are a complex range of services we offer and/ or can access.



In selecting services, we seek to provide the best possible support and minimise any counterproductive effects or prevent equitable access to support for everyone.

If you consider that your child has an issue and may need special needs support, please approach your child's teacher or syndicate leader.

Special needs programmes encompass a wide range of physical, social and emotional difficulties that children can experience. These difficulties may delay progress or make it more difficult to access the curriculum.

Sometimes these difficulties are developmental but some are not. Where the difficulty or apparent delay falls outside normal parameters of what is expected (or there is an existing identified disability), special needs assessment and intervention can support and help.

What we provide

The Board is given \$9,000 each year by the government to cover both special needs, and extension. This is hugely inadequate so the Board with careful budgeting tops this fund up allowing \$28,000 for special needs. This pays for teacher aides, specialised staff and resources.

a) In school identification

Teachers refer children to the special needs co-ordinator if they consider these students may be showing signs of some difficulty and/or where parents have mentioned a concern. The needs are prioritised and considered for further support for a variety of agencies.

b) Classroom and other school based programmes

In most cases we seek to deliver special needs support within the classroom. Occasionally however a special programme will operate outside the classroom where this is considered the best option.



The school also runs playground groups and a range of Health programmes to support positive behaviours.

c) Reading Recovery

In 2006 the Ministry of Education paid for a part of this programme and the school board contributed the balance in addition to special needs budget.

RR is an accelerated programme with an impressive and heavily researched track record of success. It is specifically designed to ensure 6 year olds accelerate their progress and catch up or “recover” relative to their peers. All 6 year olds are assessed and those likely to benefit are placed on a waiting list. The programme is intensive and requires 1-1 tuition for half an hour each day. Maximum effectiveness requires that children accepted into Reading Recovery do not take part in other special programmes in school time during the course of the programme. This effectiveness not only means a greater chance of success for the child concerned but also less time in the programme. As a consequence, others on the waiting list will not miss out on this opportunity.

The University of Auckland supervise and train staff as part of valid accreditation and to ensure best practice. Parent permission is required before children take part and the school invites parents of children involved to come in and watch a session.

d) Listening programme

Our school is accredited to run The Listening Programme. This consists of 20 weeks (30 minutes a day) listening to classical music. This particular programme has been widely researched and has great benefits for students experiencing auditory processing issues and/ or dyslexia.

Children are chosen by specialist staff after a review of assessment data and consideration of recommendations from specialists.

f) Rainbow Reading

This programme is suitable for students who are experiencing some difficulties in becoming fully fluent readers. It involves reading (and re-reading) books whilst listening to the story on a CD before independent reading. Children are selected by class teachers.

g) Fine motor and other small group programmes

This is based on identified need and programmes only run while that need is evident.

h) Dyslexia

The school is a member of the 4D Dyslexic Foundation and we seek to follow best practice models for these students in the classrooms as well as provide specialist tuition where necessary. For more information check out our web site.