

To the Parents and Community of Devonport School

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on **Devonport School**.

Devonport School is an urban contributing school situated on a hill overlooking the Devonport township. This well established primary school with a history of positive ERO reports has a strong identity and productive relationships with the local and wider community. The school is experiencing roll growth and as a result the board of trustees has plans to expand classroom facilities and is currently working on upgrading the administration block.

Students at the school are enthusiastic learners who express themselves confidently and articulately. Students report that they value the comprehensive range of cultural, academic, sporting and social opportunities provided for them. Most students at all levels of the school are achieving above national expectations for their age in literacy and mathematics. Very good provision is made for students with particular gifts and talents and specific learning needs.

There is a high quality of teaching overall, with some very skilled practitioners evident. Classes are well managed and warm relationships are the central focus. Teachers are reflective, focused on improvement and work collaboratively to implement well-considered programmes and initiatives to support positive student outcomes. They are currently developing ways to enhance programmes so that students can set the direction for their own learning.

A respected and capable leadership team of three, the principal and deputy and assistant principals, support teachers well. The principal thinks strategically and manages change with skill and prudence. She is highly valued for her approachable manner and inclusive style of leadership.

The board of trustees is well informed by the principal on curriculum matters and student achievement. Trustees are committed to their responsibilities and to training through which they continually build on their understanding of their governance role. The school charter is currently under review through a collaborative process involving community input. A clear governance framework assists the board to resource the school well and to ensure that the school meets its legal requirements.

The board and teachers asked ERO to evaluate how well they cater for the diverse needs of students in their reading programmes and the extent to which a new model of planning the curriculum (concept planning) was being implemented in the school. ERO concludes that in both of these areas, students are making clear gains in their development of concepts and skills and in their attitudes to learning. As a next step in enhancing their understanding of student capacity and attainment in the use of thinking skills and other prioritised competencies, teachers should continue to develop ways to measure progress and achievement.

ERO also reviewed how effectively the school caters for gifted and talented students and for international students, how far the school has progressed in meeting the needs of Māori students and the quality of policies and practices to support the safety of students.

ERO concludes that very good teaching practices supported by able leaders, committed trustees and a strong partnership with parents contribute well to student learning and welfare at Devonport School.

Future Action

ERO is confident that the board of trustees can manage the school in the interests of the students and the Crown and bring about the improvements outlined in this report.

ERO will review the school again as part of the regular review cycle.

Review Coverage

ERO reviews do not cover every aspect of school performance and each ERO report may cover different issues. The aim is to provide information on aspects that are central to student achievement and useful to this school.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact the school or see the ERO website, <http://www.ero.govt.nz>.

Elizabeth Ellis
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for Chief Review Officer

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT REVIEWS