

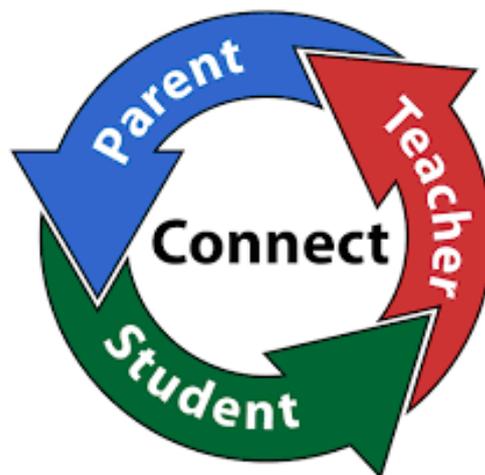


Northcross Intermediate School

Individual Growth through Challenge and Learning

Auckland | New Zealand

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS



New Zealand Curriculum / Curriculum Standards
ESOL/Assessment Summary Reports/Teacher
interviews

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to Northcross Intermediate School. We look forward to communicating with you throughout the year. We have access to some translation services so please do not hesitate to contact us in your first language. All queries will be responded to as quickly as possible.

Upon enrolment, your child will be placed into a mainstream classroom and will be taught using the New Zealand Curriculum. Students starting at the beginning of the school year who have Foundation level English will be placed into an ESOL Orientation Class for the first 4 weeks, which will offer extra support before moving into their homeroom.

An overview of this Curriculum is outlined below:

Learning Areas: *English; The Arts; Health and Physical education; Mathematics and Statistics; Science; Social Sciences; Technology.*

Vision: *Young people who will be confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners.*

Values: *Excellence; innovation, inquiry and curiosity; Diversity; Equity; Communication and participation; Ecological sustainability; Integrity; Respect.*

Key Competencies: *Thinking; Using language, symbols and texts (e.g. Numeracy & literacy); Managing self; Relating to others; Participating and contributing.*

Principles: *High Expectations, Treaty of Waitangi, Cultural Diversity, Inclusion, Learning to Learn, Community Engagement, Coherence, Future Focus.*

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL):

Assessments

Students complete an initial assessment test at the beginning of the year, or if arriving later in the year, on arrival at the school. This tests their English skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students are tested again in June and in November. These testing results are used for their Mid-Year and End of Year reports.

Curriculum

ESOL lessons follow the approach of 'Language across the curriculum', which supports the mainstream term topics. Students learn the necessary vocabulary and language structures needed for the term topic. 'Guided' and 'Shared' reading lessons also centre on the term topic. A supplementary reading programme, Rainbow Reading, is also used which promotes students' reading accuracy,

pronunciation and information recall. Students practise their publishing skills using computers.

Students who are 'Beginner' English learners also learn everyday life skill vocabulary. (E.g.: telling the time, maths vocabulary, greetings, describing how they feel / illnesses, as well as focusing on the most used words necessary for basic communication.) They also practise the different grammatical structures in greater detail.

Advanced students focus on improving their writing skills through the use of appropriate punctuation, longer sentences and good paragraphing skills.

Lessons

Students attend lessons in similar ability groups where possible. Lessons range from three to four lessons per week at the beginner level, down to two lessons a week for the more advanced students.

There are two ESOL teachers and students follow a set timetable for the term.

The name and Email address of your child's classroom teacher and ESOL teacher (if applicable) will be forwarded to you. We welcome and encourage communication regarding your child's progress.

At Northcross Intermediate School we cater to all academic ability:

Extension Mathematics & English

Students who show above aptitude for Mathematics and/or English are offered extension classes to ensure they are continually challenged to their full potential.

Students who may need help with these subjects are also given additional support to help them achieve ***the expected curriculum level by the end of Year 8.***

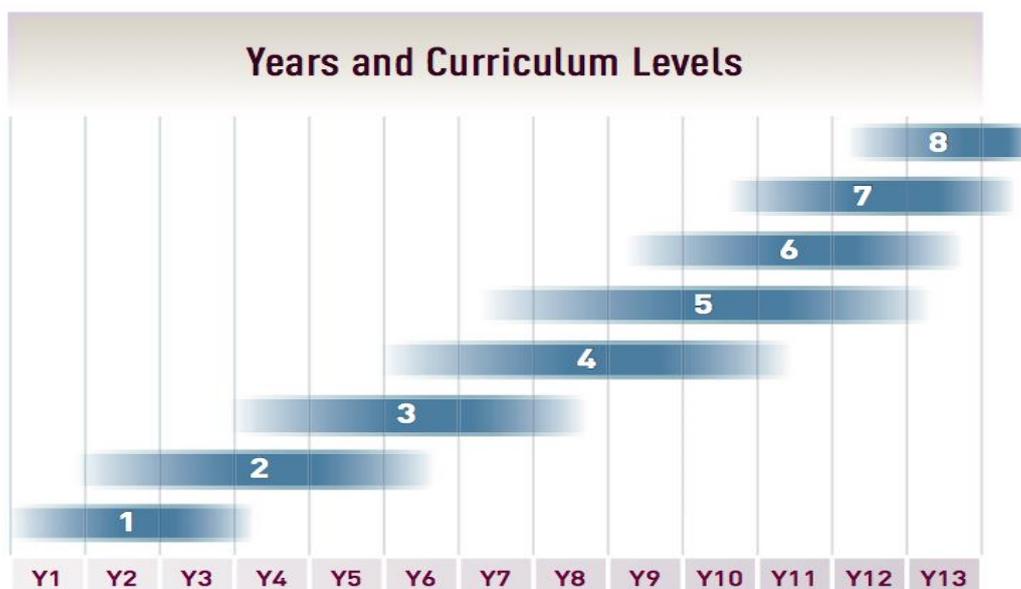
What Are Curriculum Levels?

There are 8 levels in the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC). These stretch from Year 1 through to Year 13. Each level represents a learning stage in each learning area or subject taught.

For example, most Year 7 to 8 students will be learning between the curriculum levels 3 to 4. Your child may be at a different level for different learning areas because they may be working at curriculum level 4 in Reading and level 3 in Writing. In Mathematics it is even possible that your child will be working at different levels for the different strands (Number & Algebra, Geometry & Measurement and

Statistics) due to the different skills covered e.g. working at Level 3 for Number & Algebra but level 4 for Statistics. Once your child has gained most of the skills, knowledge and understanding of each stage they will progress to the next level.

The diagram below shows how curriculum levels typically relate to years at school. Not all students however, fit this pattern. Students with special learning needs, those who are gifted, and those who come from non- English-speaking backgrounds are examples of these exceptions, all of whom we work hard to cater for at Northcross Intermediate.



It is important to remember that curriculum levels are of more importance to us than to your child, because we use them to guide our teaching, assessments and evaluations of learning. Rather than being hung up on levels, we ask you to concentrate on how well your child is progressing from the beginning of the year to the end of the year and from one year to the next. If you are in any way concerned or surprised about your child's level, then do let us know. Please bear in mind that the curriculum level will actually help your child receive the support they need, either as extra assistance in the classroom or in extension work if they are exceeding expectations.

OTJ (Overall teacher judgement)

OTJ (overall teacher judgement) is used to assess each student. This comprises summative data from various tests such as PATs, asTTle, Gloss, Probes and formative data (student's book work, conferencing, observations, general class work). When interpreting achievement, teachers take into account the rate of progress as well as the **expected** curriculum level for Y7 & Y8. *No one test determines a student has met or has not met the Curriculum Level.*

For student's new to English then the school may decide to report to you using *The English Language Learning Progressions* (ELLP) for the first two or three years. The Progressions describe reading, writing, and the speaking and listening expectations for children who are new learners of English. They also help your child's teacher to provide an appropriate teaching and learning programme to help your child make fast progress in these areas. This is done in conjunction with the ESOL department/teachers. As your child's achievement in reading and writing gets closer to their peers, the school will report progress in reading and writing in relation to the Curriculum Level. Schools will report on your child's maths progress and achievement.

Reports & Teacher/Parent Interviews:

Spotlight on learning and Assessment Summary Reports

Northcross School adheres to the reporting requirements outlined in the National Administration Guidelines 2c. On the basis of good quality assessment information report to students and their parents report to students and their parents on progress and achievement in plain language twice a year reporting across the National Curriculum, including Maths and Literacy.

The reporting timetable and format is as follows:

- February 'informal' meet the teacher
- March/April; 'Settling In' and Summative Assessment Feedback interview
- July: Mid-Year Assessment Summary Report interview with Parents/Caregivers
- December: End of Year Assessment Summary Report

We are using the e-Tap Spotlight on Learning, an online reporting portal for our continuous reporting format. Students and their teachers will be uploading evidence of students learning and self-reflection over the course of the year. The evidence will be available to parents as and when it is uploaded against the appropriate learning intentions.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parents and caregivers have the opportunity to meet with their child's new classroom teacher to discuss the year ahead on the first official day of school. The interviews are 10 minutes. You will be notified prior to the start of the school year on how to book an interview time on-line. Students should attend these interviews in full school uniform.

Student Assessments will take place in the first few weeks of school. The student is tested for reading, writing and mathematics. If English is not the student's first language and they have lived in NZ for under 3 years then they will also have an ESOL test.

The next teacher/student/caregiver interview will take place around early April. Parents can discuss how their child is settling in to their new school, the results of their recent assessments and next learning steps.

The final teacher/parent conference will be in Term 3 after students receive their mid-year class report. For ESOL students the results of their ESOL progress will form part of this report.

If you have concerns about your child's progress at any time, you can email the class teacher to arrange a meeting.

Explanation of Assessment Summary Reports

In 2018 the Ministry of Education removed National Standards for reporting student achievement. The change was to allow focus on children's progress and achievement, across the wider curricula, while not forgetting the importance of foundation skills of literacy and numeracy.

This change better acknowledges the different ways and pace at which all children learn, and the progress they are making, no matter how big or small. It will also support teachers to provide more learning opportunities based on what your child already knows and can do.

The New Zealand way of teaching may be quite different to what you and your child may be used to in your home country. Students often work in groups and are encouraged to ask questions of the teacher and amongst their peers. Homework will vary from class to class. Depending on your child's English level - they may only be given homework from their ESOL teacher.

We hope your child will experience valuable life skills that will further enable them to become young people who will be confident, connected, actively involved life-long learners of the 21st Century.

The Next Step:

The majority of Northcross students, both domestic and International, will graduate to either Long Bay College or Rangitoto College in Year 9. Students will visit both schools later in their Y8 year as a group.