



Onslow College  
Prospectus



Johnsonville  
Wellington  
New Zealand



# About Onslow

Onslow College is a co-educational, decile 10 state secondary school located in the north-western suburbs of Wellington. Our zone includes Johnsonville, Churton Park, Ohariu Valley, Broadmeadows, Khandallah, Cashmere, Ngaio, Chartwell, Crofton Downs, Wilton, Wadestown and Northland. We also serve Karori and Kelburn. Onslow College operates an enrolment scheme.

Onslow College is an environment that encourages independence, self-discipline, and social responsibility with a student-centred philosophy. There is no prescribed uniform for students.

Onslow College promotes an inclusive environment for all students and is renowned for the positive learning relationships and the large co-curricular involvement of students and staff. Through the creative talents and enthusiasm of our students and staff we strive for excellence in all aspects of College life.

We encourage diversity and individuality while ensuring behaviour does not constrain the rights of other students to an excellent education.

Onslow College works hard to communicate with its wider community and involve families with their key role in supporting student learning.

There are approximately 1300 students, 90 teachers and 30 support staff at Onslow College.

## Vision

Inspiring students to learn, grow and achieve in an environment that encourages individual and community responsibility, freedom of expression and respect for the rights of others.

## Values

### Working Together

Students, parents, the school and the community work together to achieve an inclusive school that is socially and culturally diverse, safe and free from disruption and which recognises the unique status of Māori.

### Realising Potential

We value and celebrate effort, success, innovation and creativity. We believe high expectations promote student achievement and encourage social responsibility.

### Mutual Respect and Self-Management

Onslow is characterised by a mature interaction between staff and students. Teachers and students are treated with respect and students share responsibility for learning with their teachers.

### Life-Long Learning

Students are engaged by way of a personalised learning process and develop as life-long learners. They are taught how to learn by high quality and motivated staff who continue to learn themselves.

# Principal's welcome



I am proud to introduce Onslow College to you, and look forward to you and your child joining us. Students at Onslow College are placed at the heart of our school and provided with exceptional learning opportunities. We want every young person to feel valued. We want to develop confident, connected, actively involved lifelong learners. We focus on helping our students experience success in their academic, cultural, sporting and personal pursuits. Through developing our students' individual strengths we support them having choices in their career paths which allows them to make valuable contributions to society.

Onslow College is a vibrant multicultural community. All cultures are valued and celebrated and we are conscious of ensuring that we develop citizens who understand New Zealand's unique bicultural partnership.

We have the mantra of 'community over conformity' and work hard on relationships and building a sense of community. As a result students enjoy their school and are proud of it. One of our key strengths is our ability to provide positive learning-focused relationships that staff and students enjoy.

Through our Ako programme we aim to provide each young person with a significant adult at school who will advocate for them as they progress through their schooling years.

The college has an impressive record of academic, sporting and cultural success. We are proud of what our students achieve and we value their contribution to the way our school is run through groups such as Peer Support, Student Mediation, Student Council and Year level Councils.

Onslow College provides a comprehensive student support network and as a school we are focused on meeting every child's educational and pastoral needs. We are proud of our school's unique traditions and student-focused approach. I look forward to working with you so that each student leaves Onslow ready and excited to take on the challenges of life and prepared to challenge the society they enter to be a better place.

Ngā mihi nui

Sheena Millar  
Principal

**Ko Tarikākā te maunga**  
TARIKĀKĀ IS THE MOUNTAIN.

**Ko Waipāhīhī te awa**  
WAIPĀHĪHĪ IS THE RIVER.

**Ko Onslow College te kura**  
ON SLOW COLLEGE IS THE SCHOOL.

A photograph of several young women sitting at a long table in a library, focused on their laptops. The background is filled with bookshelves. The text 'Junior school' is written vertically on the left side of the image.

# Junior school

*"I was feeling a bit nervous about coming to Onslow; however, the teachers have been really supportive and the peer supporters are good and make things fun. The school seemed big, but really it isn't once you start. It is great having different subjects. I really enjoy the sport and am loving being at Onslow"* Year 9 Student

*“Right from the first communication with Onslow we’ve been impressed. Having our eldest child transition to college was a big thing, but we have been blown away with the support received. To us, Onslow College is everything we could have asked for and more. We are so excited to see where our child’s journey will go”* New Parent

We regard the learning in the junior school (Years 9 and 10) as vital in:

- Developing key skills and understandings necessary for future success
- Establishing sound work and study habits
- Ensuring that students access a wide range of subjects and disciplines to enable them to make informed choices in the future. Our goal is to provide a balance between student choice and intensive development of skills
- Enabling students to create and establish their own identity in a learning environment which is flexible and responsive to their needs while providing clear structures and guidelines to support them in their learning.

## Junior School Courses

Year 9 and 10 students study across all eight learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum:

### The Arts

Art, Dance, Drama, Music

### English

### Health and Physical Education

### Languages

French, Japanese, Mandarin, Spanish, Te Reo Māori

### Mathematics

### Science

### Social Sciences

Social Studies

### Technology

Design Technology, Digital Technologies, Fashion and Design, Food Technology and Nutrition, Graphics and Design

### Cross Curricular

Digital Literacy, Financial Literacy, Planning for Action

The Junior Curriculum Handbooks contain full details of course content and requirements.

## Extension Opportunities

As an inclusive school, Onslow College ensures that there are extension opportunities available within all programmes. Staff are trained in providing differentiated lessons that allow students to challenge themselves and to be challenged.

Students enter and are successful in a wide range of competitions including the Australian Maths, English and Science Competitions and Science CREST programmes.

Senior school



*“Onslow’s student-led approach to learning, leadership and clubs has equipped me with the skills necessary for the wider world and university where you are responsible for being a self-starter and working towards your own goals”* Former student

We offer an extensive range of subjects in the senior school. Students are able to choose a course which best suits their needs due to the flexibility of studying at multiple levels and the variety of courses offered. Please refer to the Senior Curriculum Handbook for full course details.

The transition programme provides opportunities for work experience and to study at polytechnics and other providers. Also available is a range of practical and vocationally oriented subjects.

## Qualifications

### NCEA - Level 1 (Year 11)

All students take English, Science, Mathematics and three other subjects. Students who meet the prerequisites may take subjects above Level 1.

### NCEA - Level 2 (Year 12)

All students take English or Te Reo and the equivalent of an additional four and a half to five full-year subjects. Students who have met the prerequisites may take subjects at NCEA Level 3.

### NCEA - Level 3 (Year 13)

This includes University Entrance and Scholarship. Students take five subjects.

## Leadership Opportunities

Senior students at Onslow College have a range of opportunities to provide active leadership within the school.

- BOT Representative
- Drama and Music
- Environment Group
- Outdoor Education
- Peer Support
- Peer Tutoring
- School Council
- Sports Coaching
- Sports Council
- Student Mediation
- School Magazine - Ad Lib.

## Year Level Leadership Groups

Students also play an integral part in school processes such as staff appointments, the College Property Committee and other decision-making groups.



# Student support

*"Leaders and teachers know students well. They gather relevant information in relation to achievement, learning and well-being. 'Ako student mentoring', seeks to ensure a collaborative approach between a key teacher and individual students in monitoring and guiding their achievement. A strong inclusive culture is underpinned by positive relationships"*

ERO 2017

Onslow College is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students. We have an extensive pastoral care network.

## Pastoral Care

- Every student is placed in an Ako class which provides support and advice to students and whānau
- Deans have overall responsibility for the welfare of students at each year level
- The Ako Teacher is the first point of contact if you have any questions
- The Deputy Principals are responsible for coordinating the pastoral support network
- Mentoring by senior students occurs in programmes such as Peer Support and Peer Mediation
- The principles of restorative justice are a key focus of the discipline system

## Māori Students

- Onslow College recognises the unique status of Māori
- Māori language and culture can be studied at all levels
- The Kaitiaki and Māori teacher work closely with students, whānau, and other staff
- Kapa Haka is an active group within the school
- The Kaitiaki is a guardian for Māori students

## Tena Koutou Katoa

Ka āhukahuka matou o te kura i te tuakiri o nga tauira Māori.

Ka taea e ngā tauira katoa ki te ako i te reo Māori.

He rōpū haka tō te kura o Onslow.

Ka whakamana te kura i ngā wāhanga katoa o te Tiriti o Waitangi.

## Learning Support

Students with any learning needs requiring special teaching methods are fully mainstreamed.

Learning Support coordinates Individual Education Plans, aimed at promoting the best learning experience for your child. Support is available for students who need extra support.

## Guidance Counsellors

- For support, students or parents can contact the Guidance Counsellors
- The Guidance Counsellors are professionally trained and issues are dealt with confidentially

## Vocational Pathways

- Onslow College has a comprehensive Careers Education and vocational pathways programme
- The Careers Advisor is available to parents as well as students
- Advice and guidance is provided on careers, tertiary education, training courses and subject choices
- Careers advice and guidance begins in Year 9

## English Language

The EL department supports students from non-English speaking backgrounds. Language support is provided in mainstream classrooms and through small group tuition for students needing higher levels of English assistance.

Sports and recreation



*“The shared vision for students at the college is to promote excellence, embrace difference and empower all learners to be confident, connected and to succeed with integrity and dignity.”* ERO 2017

Onslow College students participate and compete successfully in a wide range of sporting activities.

Our sports staff coordinate sporting activities within the school and work to ensure that our students participate successfully in the full range of inter-school sports.

Onslow College encourages the discipline, commitment and healthy competition that enable many of our students to represent their sport at regional and national levels.

The success of the sports programme relies on the involvement of parents and others in the community.

### Sports available to students include:

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Bowls
- Canoe Polo
- Chess
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Netball
- Orienteering
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Shooting
- Skiing /Snowboarding
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Touch Rugby
- Tramping
- Volleyball
- Water polo
- Yachting / Sailing

### Education Outside the Classroom

The use of educational facilities beyond the classroom for subject fieldwork is encouraged.

This includes sports facilities, museums, galleries, libraries, government and private organisations, rivers, beaches and parks.

Students are also involved in outdoor pursuits programmes, which are designed to provide challenges and support personal development. All Year 9 classes participate in a camp at the start of the year. Year 13 Peer Supporters are involved in camp as leaders. Year 10 students are involved in an activities-based programme at the end of the year. Students may also take part in trips organised by an active tramping club and have the opportunity to attend the Outdoor Pursuits Centre near Tongariro National Park.

Cultural excellence



Excellence in the arts is encouraged at Onslow College. The nature of the school is very much shaped by the creative talents and enthusiasm of its students.

## Kapa Haka, Dance, Drama and Debating

We have a commitment to achieving excellence in Māori Performing Arts and Kapa Haka. The Kapa Haka Group features prominently in school activities. Anyone who wishes to participate is warmly welcomed.

Onslow College provides opportunities for students interested in dance to participate in both curricular and co-curricular dance.

Drama follows a strong tradition of public performance. Students are encouraged to extend their individual creativity, and learn to work together in a variety of settings with a wide range of collaborators. They also actively participate in a wide range of co-curricular drama performances, including the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival, the Classroom Comedians programme, and Onslow College's Musicals.

A number of Onslow College students go on to tertiary study and professional careers in the Performing Arts.

Onslow is actively involved in local and national debating competitions.

## Environment

Onslow College has an active Green Group which participates in regional and national events and contributes to a project for the restoration of the Waipāhīhī Stream area within the school environs.

Students are directly involved in decision-making processes which impact on the general school environment.

## International Experiences

Onslow College offers students the opportunity to take part in a number of exciting international experiences;

- China trip
- Classics trip to Greece and Italy
- French trip
- The annual exchange with Yamamura Senior High School near Tokyo.
- Leadership trip to Vietnam & Cambodia
- Spanish trip
- Sports/Music trips to Australia

Onslow College students are regularly selected to participate in exchanges such as; language exchanges, Rotary, AFS and YFU.

## Music

The Onslow College Music Department is a vibrant and thriving community. We have a wide variety of Music groups including Choirs, Concert Band, Orchestra, Rock Bands and Chamber Ensembles.

These ensembles participate in a large number of festivals and exchanges across the Wellington Region.

Across the course of the year there are many performance opportunities and concerts, ranging from solo instruments to combined works for Choir and Orchestra.

We also run a diverse Itinerant Programme, giving students an opportunity to learn an instrument at school. Options include Brass, Woodwind, Strings, Percussion and Piano.

## Te Whānau o Te Ara Poutama

Te Whānau o Te Ara Poutama celebrates Māori Language and Culture, focusing on key elements of tikanga which are Manaakitanga (to be caring and enact hospitality wherever possible), whanaungatanga (building and maintaining positive relationships) while remaining committed to strengthening the capacity of our taura to utilise Te Reo to facilitate all Kaupapa Māori. Te Whānau o Te Ara Poutama has a strong focus also on the tuakana - teina model.

We work with our tuakana to develop leadership and teaching skills to support and encourage our teina in learning and upholding tikanga at our school and the wider community.

# Facilities

## e-Learning and ICT

Onslow College enables and supports learning with information and communication technologies.

Technology can enrich traditional ways of teaching. It can also open up new and different ways of learning, helping students to develop skills they need in a rapidly changing world.

Onslow College recognises the importance of e-Learning. We continually increase our capacity to deliver this effectively. Onslow College has strengthened our school-wide wireless network to facilitate e-Learning in all classrooms. We have increased staff training in the effective use of ICT to improve learning. The training we offer students in safe and effective use of ICT expands every year.

Student training includes:

- Information retrieval
- Presentation and communication
- Data processing
- Responsible online behaviour including safe digital practice

We use two main platforms for e-Learning, Moodle and Office 365. These allow students to access course material at home and at school, collaborate with other students, complete, store and submit some of their school work online. Both platforms can house links to resources and learning tools that support the in-class teaching. Office 365 gives a student free access to the suite of Microsoft Office applications (eg Word, OneNote, OneDrive, Excel) for as long as the student is enrolled at Onslow.

Students and parents have access to the Onslow College Portal which provides important school notices. Parents receive an invitation to join the portal, an effective method to keep up-to-date with their child's achievement at school and to book appointments for Parent Teacher Conferences.

Students have a computer account, which gives them open use of school email and internet, subject to the Onslow College Cybersafety Use Agreement and Cybersafety Policy.

Onslow has a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme for all students. There are a small number of school laptops available for use in school for students who are having difficulty with their devices or need short term support.

## Facilities

Onslow College aims to provide facilities which enhance student learning, creating an environment which reflects the nature of Onslow College and its community. Currently, the facilities at Onslow College include:

- Thirty general classrooms
- Eight science laboratories
- Three practical art rooms
- A music suite with classrooms, performance spaces, practice rooms and a recording studio
- Six specialist technology classrooms
- Two gymnasiums
- Indoor cricket practice facility, cricket nets and a multiuse turf
- Extensive grass playing fields
- Three computer laboratories supplemented by computer pods throughout the school
- A well-established library which is the information centre for the school
- The Arts Centre which is the focus of Drama in the school
- A new Student Centre and cafeteria and
- A media studies suite with film production facilities

Onslow College has a long-term property plan which provides for the ongoing development of the school to ensure that we continue to provide a quality teaching and learning environment.

Onslow's most recent ERO review can be accessed at this location, <https://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/onslow-college-20-11-2017/>



# We are Onslow College



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