



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

For the year ended 31 December 2020

2020 was a year unlike any previously experienced with Covid-19 causing unprecedented disruption to the usual teaching and learning programmes. Changes to Covid-19 alert levels and subsequent procedures resulted in the cancellation of many planned opportunities for both student and teacher learning during the year. As well as the loss of school contact time during Level 3 and 4 lockdowns, the Covid-19 climate had an ongoing impact on student attendance.

In 2020 the overall student attendance rate was 81.8%, this is 1.7% lower than the previous year (83.5). The school goal for student attendance is 90% which requires students to have fewer than 20 days absence across the year. 6% (21) students had fewer than 4 days of absence for the year. 56% (209) students had 20 or more days of absence for the year. Absence rates do not include students being away from school during Level 3 or 4 lockdowns.

A major disappointment was the lack of support from the Ministry of Education for Wiri Central students learning at home during the Covid-19 lockdown periods. Access to appropriate digital devices and the internet was a barrier for many students to connect with teachers online. Teachers attempted to make connections with students and whānau via phone calls or email where possible. During periods at Level 3, staff made up learning packs of hard materials and these were delivered to as many homes as possible.

The staff and board are acutely aware of the increased pressure that Covid-19 has caused for many families in our school community. The uncertainty associated with this Global Pandemic has heightened the need to focus on the wellbeing of both students and staff; this became the major focus in 2020 and will continue into 2021. Students adapted well to revised safety and hygiene procedures and positive outcomes have resulted in many of these becoming permanent changes.

Unsurprisingly student achievement has shown a decline in 2020. Student achievement data that had previously shown improvement reflected a decline of about 10% across both literacy and numeracy.

<u>Reading</u> (% of students achieving at or above NZC expectation)				<u>Writing</u> (% of students achieving at or above NZC expectation)				<u>Mathematics</u> (% of students achieving at or above NZC expectation)			
2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
44	51	63	54	39	50	55	44	48	50	61	54

In March 2019 some discrepancies were found with our school accounts and this was acted upon immediately. Since then we have worked with NZ police and specialist services to understand what had happened and who was responsible. The investigation was completed, charges were laid and a former employee admitted to misusing and stealing funds from our school. While the school finances were impacted we can assure you that the school remains in a strong financial position. It is disappointing that someone who was a part of our school whānau has let us down and betrayed our trust.

In the second half of the 2020 planned refurbishment of a number of classroom spaces and student toilets was undertaken. New carpet tiles, wall linings and fresh paint brightened up the classrooms and new lighting and sinks were installed. The toilets were redesigned for improved privacy and better cleaning. During 2020 the Ministry of Education engaged with the Board and school management to discuss the siting of new classrooms to be built at the school. This is to manage predicted roll growth in the future. Design of the classrooms will take place during 2021 with building planned for 2022.

We would like to thank our Board members and staff for their continued support in helping us to achieve our vision for students and for their unwavering commitment during a challenging year. We could not do this work without parent support, we thank you all for that and look forward to continuing to work together with you to ensure that your child achieves success in all areas of school.

He manga wai koia kia kore e whitikia.

It is a big river indeed that cannot be crossed.

Jan Donaldson
Principal

Stacey Morunga
Chairperson - Board of Trustees