

## Avonside Girls' High School Enrolment 2021 FAQs

*How do I enrol my daughter for Year 9 at Avonside Girls' High School for 2021?*

Go to the school website [www.avonside.school.nz](http://www.avonside.school.nz) and read through the enrolment process. Follow the process and submit the online application form.

*When can we enrol?*

Enrolments open on Monday 8 June 2021 and close on Friday 31 July 2021.

*We live in zone. Will my daughter be able to go to Avonside?*

Living in zone automatically entitles girls to enrol at the school. However, to manage numbers and to be in a position to offer any available out of zone places, we require all applications for enrolment for 2021 to be made within the advertised timeline.

*We live out of zone but would like our daughter to attend Avonside. Will she be able to?*

The school operates an enrolment zone which is governed by law. It entitles all in zone applicants to be accepted as students and has an order of priority for accepting out of zone applicants. Out of zone applications for places in Year 9 must be received by 31 July. Places are balloted according to the priority list.

*If my daughter is accepted into Avonside for 2021, when will I hear?*

All successful applicants will be notified on 4 August and offered a place. This offer must be accepted or declined by 14 August. Out of zone students who have not been accepted will be placed on a waiting list in order of the ballot.

*How do you gather information about my daughter?*

The enrolment form captures essential information. We then contact each girl's current school and gather information to support a successful transition to secondary school. There is also an interview with the student and her family and entry testing scheduled to take place later in term 3.

*What support is there for students with special learning needs?*

We want all our girls to be included socially and academically. We plan, together with the student and their whānau, what students need to help them reach their potential. In our Enrichment Centre we are fortunate to have a great team consisting of the SENCo (Head of Learning Support), six Learning Support Assistants and two Learning Support Coordinators. This team supports students in classes and in shorter, impactful interventions. In Year 9, there is an option class called the Learning Development Programme, which focusses on literacy and numeracy instead of learning a new language. Students are invited into this programme. In Years 10 to 13, students are supported in classes, or in alternative programmes, designed to help them achieve to their potential.

*What opportunities are there to ensure that my daughter is extended in her learning?*

There are extension classes at Years 9 and 10. These classes work at a faster pace and provide more opportunities to look at topics in greater depth. Additionally, the gifted and talented coordinator can work with your daughter to make sure that our courses are catering to her needs. We understand that each student has different needs so there is no one-size-fits-all

programme. However, there are field trips, conferences, competitions and workshops which groups of students or individuals are invited to take part in. This is a great way for these students to get to know each other and work together.

*How is my daughter transitioned into secondary school at the start of 2021?*

To support a successful transition to secondary school, the first few days at the start of the year are just for Year 9 students. This enables them to familiarise themselves with the site, meet other Year 9 students and staff, meet their Year 13 student leaders and get set up for learning at secondary school. Over the next six weeks of term, Year 9 students meet weekly with their peer support leaders. These are Year 13 students who take small groups of Year 9 students through a peer support programme and who connect in regularly with students to help them integrate into secondary school.

*What are the learning spaces like at Avonside Girls' High School?*

Our new school has wonderful facilities to support teaching and learning. We have the benefit that co-location brings of impressive shared facilities (Large theatre and another smaller more intimate theatre space; library; cultural space; cafeteria; hospitality teaching space; 3<sup>rd</sup> shared gymnasium).

Within our own school facilities, we have wonderful specialist teaching spaces - modern well-equipped science laboratories, dance rooms, drama rooms, technology, art, etc. The general learning spaces are a mix of more open flexible spaces and separate single cell classrooms and smaller breakout spaces. These offer flexibility so that teachers can select the space for the class that suits the learning that is planned.

*What is the pastoral network to support student engagement and wellbeing?*

Each girl belongs to a vertical form class which meets four times a week in ako time. She will have the same form class teacher (pouako) throughout her time at school, and this teacher is the first point of contact for families. The ako class belongs to one of the four Houses (or pou). Each Pou has a House Dean (Kaitiaki) and a member of the Senior Leadership who has oversight of girls in the Pou.

Ako is a time for pastoral care and for delivery of our school wellbeing programme focused on helping each girl develop the skills and capabilities to flourish in all aspects of her life and learning.

A strong Guidance team consisting of social worker, guidance counsellors, and Māori and Pasifika Liaison support workers provide specialist and targeted support for students.