



2023 PROSPECTUS

WELCOME

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI

I am proud to be the Principal of Avonside Girls' High School, Te Kura Kohine o Ōtākaro. At Avonside we are passionate about empowering you to be a future leader, and preparing you to go out into the world able to flourish with a strong sense of identity and purpose.

“Ka mua, ka muri” – by knowing who we are we can look forward

I welcome you to come and be part of Avonside, to be a leader of tomorrow. Our vision is for you to walk through our doors and to feel you belong, strong in your identity and what you bring to the school. At Avonside you will be challenged to achieve personal excellence in your learning and to develop a voice that is empowered to lead our society now and in the future.

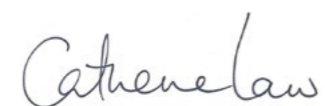
More than ever, I believe that young wāhine need a strong single sex environment in which to flourish. We provide a values led school culture that supports you to belong, connect, have courage, lead and to achieve your full potential. At Avonside we want you to aim high in your academic achievement and career aspirations. Our teaching is tailored to your needs, and we have experienced teams to support your emotional wellbeing.

At Avonside we have a passionate, knowledgeable and committed group of teachers who care about all their students' success in learning and about their wellbeing. Our focus is on building

strong relationships and teaching with high expectations. Our poutama of values, Te whare mauri ora, are a way of being in our school for staff and students. We want our students to leave our school strong in their identity, connecting well with others, having high academic aspirations and to be leaders. A strong pastoral and hauora team, as well as your ako teacher, are here to support you.

We look forward to welcoming you into our modern facilities with the most up to date technology for learning. You will have the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of cultural, arts, sports, and service groups and to lead our school in these areas. Our beautiful gymnasiums and theatres allow us to offer you outstanding facilities to support these opportunities.

You will flourish here at Avonside and have an exciting future ahead of you.



Catherine Law, Tumuaki / Principal





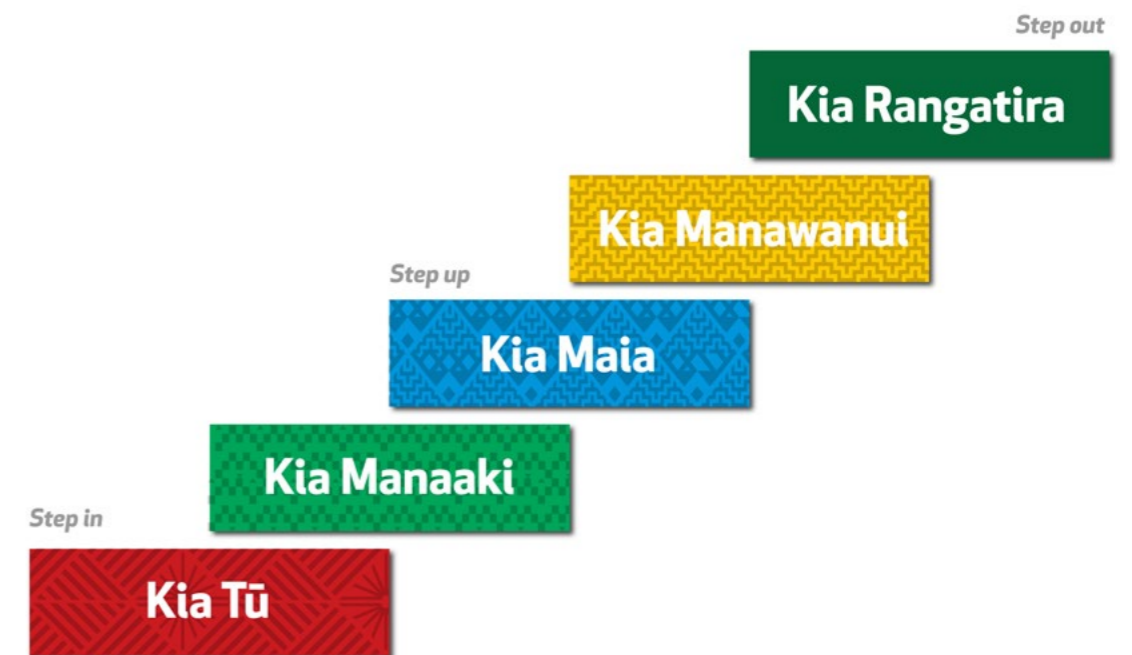
OUR SCHOOL VALUES

TE WHARE MAURI ORA

We want you to flourish at Avonside, and it is important to us to look after your wellbeing. During your time here you will be in a small ako class whom you see almost every day. This is your school family. Each ako class has students from year 9 to 13 looked after by a staff member who is the main contact for you as whānau and students. You and your ako class belong to a pou (house) and during the year there are a wide variety of fun events ranging from sports days to lipsync designed to bring pou together in competition for pou points. These always involve some dressing up!

Each of our pou are named after significant women who have changed history and achieved great things through courage, creativity, leadership and determination: Jean Batten, Whina Cooper, Katherine Mansfield and Kate Sheppard.

A strong sense of identity, courage, compassion, determination and leadership are encompassed in our poutama of values – Te whare mauri ora; our way of being at Avonside for staff and students.



ACADEMIC

MĀTAURANGA

Whaiwhia te kete mātauranga. - Fill the basket of knowledge.

OUR VISION

A knowledge rich, sequential, and connected curriculum that strengthens student engagement and empowers ākonga to aim for personal excellence.

A strong knowledge rich curriculum - what we teach – is important for you. In each subject area knowledgeable teaching staff design curriculum from Year 9-13 to ensure that you have the knowledge and skills you need. Whether you want to be a scientist, an engineer, a mathematician, a writer, an artist, a musician, an innovator or designer, a psychologist or a physiotherapist, doctor or politician, our curriculum will ensure that you fill the basket of knowledge you need. Mātauranga Māori is woven through the curriculum, and this ensures you have a rounded and bicultural understanding of topics.

When we have strong knowledge then we can stand up in society with a powerful voice. You are the future leaders, and at Avonside we want you to learn about challenging topics in our world. You will tackle sustainability, climate change, racism and intolerance.

TEACHING AND LEARNING - HOW WE TEACH

We recognise that you will need different ways to learn and be successful. Our teaching staff provide multiple ways to learn that enable all students to access knowledge and to demonstrate what they know when it comes to assessment. It is essential to us that you develop skills needed to be successful in your future – that you can collaborate with others on an idea, write/speak your ideas clearly, think critically and listen to new ideas.

LEARNING ENRICHMENT AND SUPPORT

Our students are challenged and supported in their learning. There are many opportunities for students to enrich their learning including the World Scholars' cup, debating, radio podcasts, model united nations, discussing global solutions with a Thai sister school, pitching website ideas through E whiti and participating in Pūhoro stem. In addition, we support students on an individual basis to achieve NCEA levels earlier in an area they are already expert in. This allows for students in the senior school to take university courses or NCEA scholarship courses in years 12 and 13.

Our large and experienced learning support department is dedicated to helping our young people who need some extra scaffolding or support with learning. Study groups are run after school on a Monday, and we ensure that all students can experience success.

SUBJECTS ON OFFER

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13	
English ESOL Health & Physical Education French Japanese Te Reo Māori Spanish	Mathematics Science Social Sciences Design & Visual Communication Digital Technologies Fashion & Design Technology Product Development Technology	Home Economics Dance Drama Music Visual Arts	English English Literature ESOL Foundation Studies Health Physical Education French Japanese Te Reo Māori Mathematics Mathematics and Statistics	Mathematics for Living Science Science - life around us Science and more science! Accounting and Economics Film and Media Studies Geography History Pasifika Studies Design & Visual Communication Digital Technologies	Fashion & Design Technology Product Development Technology Home Economics Māori Performing Arts Dance Drama Music Visual Arts - Practical Visual Arts - Digital Key Skills
English English Literature ESOL Directions Health LEAP - Leadership and Physical Education Physical Education French Japanese Te Reo Māori Mathematics Mathematics and Statistics Biology Chemistry	Physics Citizenship Science Accounting Economics and Business Studies Film and Media Studies Geography History Pasifika Studies Psychology Tourism Studies Design & Visual Communication Digital Technologies Fashion & Design Technology Product Development Technology	Home Economics Hospitality Practical Hard Materials Māori Performing Arts Dance Drama Music Visual Arts - Design Visual Arts - Painting & Printmaking Visual Arts Photography Key Skills Tourism Vocational Studies	English English Literature English (Bridging the Gap) ESOL Key Skills Health LEAP - Leadership and Physical Education Physical Education French Japanese Te Reo Māori Calculus Statistics Mathematics Applied Biology Chemistry	Physics Accounting Business Studies Classical Studies Economics Film and Media Studies Geography History Anthropology Pasifika Studies Tourism Studies Design & Visual Communication Digital Technologies Fashion & Design Technology Product Development Technology Home Economics	Hospitality Practical Hard Materials Māori Performing Arts Dance Drama Music Visual Arts - Design Visual Arts - Painting & Printmaking Visual Arts Photography Early Childhood Development Directions Key Skills Tourism Police Pathway Programme Vocational Studies



JUNIOR CURRICULUM

We do not stream students at Avonside Girls' High School. Evidence clearly shows that when students are taught in mixed but flexible achievement groups, and have teachers who expect all students to make large gains, they often surpass even their teachers' high expectations. For Year 9 students this is the first time they have full access to deep learning in all the different subjects and can look to decide what pathway will interest them.

YEAR 9

In Year 9 students choose an interest-based class as their 'core' class. This ensures that they are learning with a group of similar minded students and teachers can adapt material and activities to suit that interest. Alongside that all yr 9 students choose 6 half year courses across visual and performing arts, languages and technology. All students have the opportunity to start or continue Te Reo Māori and students are supported to achieve in Te Reo Māori in the level they are at.

There is a focus on the development of student literacy and numeracy as core skills needed for success.

YEAR 10

In Year 10 students continue to study english, maths, science, social sciences and health and physical education. They select courses that are designed to challenge and engage them through an interest area. Students also choose courses across technology, the arts and languages.

By the end of Year 10 Avonside Girls' High School ākonga will:

- Understand and model cultural inclusion, with an emphasis on recognising that within Aotearoa, New Zealand Māori and Pākehā are full treaty partners,
- Be empowered by being well educated. They will have ownership and autonomy over their learning and will believe that they are able to achieve success, with a strong sense of where they are going with their learning.
- Actively engage in respectful learning relationships, learning to work collaboratively with others. They will celebrate diverse abilities and individual excellence,
- Experience deep learning opportunities that develop their full potential as individuals.
- Connect and contribute to the wider community. They will understand that this connection with a wider community provides opportunities and pathways for authentic, relevant learning.

SENIOR CURRICULUM

Towards the end of Year 10 students and families are supported to choose their NCEA subjects and pathways

Careers advice is provided by a strong careers department and the focus is on students choosing their subjects at all levels of NCEA. We want all our students to have NCEA Level 2 as a base qualification and for the majority to achieve NCEA Level 3 and university entry. All students take Mathematics and English/Te Reo Māori for NCEA Level 1 and all students take English or Te Reo Māori in Year 12 in order that they achieve the required literacy and numeracy for university or further pathways. A multi-level timetable operates in the senior school to enable students to study at an appropriate level in a particular subject. The focus in the senior school is to ensure that students have opportunities to be confident and successful learners, ready to move on in the world of further education or work.

Through their NCEA journey students can deepen their learning in their current subjects and are also introduced to new and specialised courses such as Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Psychology, Geography and Anthropology.





E-LEARNING

AKO-E

Digital technologies are being increasingly used to support learning and prepare students for the world in which they will live and work beyond school. A student owned internet capable device is now an important part of a student's toolkit, giving them instant access to unlimited resources and enabling them to support, extend, communicate and share their learning in a way that prepares them for the future.

In line with our Kaupapa | Mission and Tirohanga Whānui | Vision, we strongly encourage every student to have their own laptop for learning. Digital technologies are vital tools to support learning and effectively prepare our rangitahi | young people for success now and in their futures.

The school provides O365 software and access to Google apps to every student and our digital orientation programme provides new students with an introduction to these tools for learning.

Our website holds more information on our byod programme and specifications for devices best supported on our network.



STUDENT HAUORA AND WELLBEING

Poipoia te kākano kia puawai - nurture the seed, and it will blossom

Avonside Girls' High School has an innovative and nurturing wellbeing programme which gives students the skills required to become flourishing young adults. Through the years at Avonside, external speakers talk with students on teenage topics ranging from how to tackle peer pressure and goal setting to consent, drugs and alcohol and healthy relationships. During our weekly Ako hour students spend time talking about our values,

setting career goals for themselves, and tracking their academic progress and attendance with their Ako teachers. Ākonga Māori can discuss wellbeing through a Te Ao Māori lens in three Ako groups for Māori students, led by Kaiako Māori. Pasifika Ako classes provide opportunity for our Pasifika students to connect in with other Pasifika students and discuss wellbeing concerns through a Pasifika lens. Year 9 students have additional wellbeing support through the Peer Support programme run by trained Year 13 students.

Experienced and dedicated teams support student hauora and wellbeing. We know that, for our students to flourish, their mauri (emotional health) needs to be strong. Our Kaitiaki team follow up concerns, provide further support for families and work with your young person on their academic progress. Our Hauora centre provide wide ranging psychological and emotional support through an experienced team of counsellors, social workers, family liaison advisors and external mentors who meet with groups of students needing support.

SPORTS

HĀKINAKINA

Kia kawea tātou e te tākaro- Let us be taken by the spirit of play.

We know that involvement in sport helps young people to flourish. Connecting with others as part of a team, developing exercise habits, taking up the opportunity for leadership and exploring new interests are all part of involvement in sport at any level. We encourage all our students to participate in at least one sport whilst at Avonside, and many get involved in several of our wide-ranging sporting opportunities on offer. We love to celebrate Avonside students' successes and milestones in sport, and we encourage fair play and sporting behaviour at all levels.

Our sports department, led by our Director of Sport, supports all our students to be able to play, our teachers in charge of sporting codes, coaches and managers, ensures ongoing participation in inter school competitions, school sports events, and organises tournaments with other schools. They welcome parent involvement in coaching and managing and are always happy to consider new opportunities.

Avonside has a proud tradition of sporting success both at individual and team level. We regularly produce regional and national champions and Avonside students are selected into Canterbury and New Zealand age group teams consistently.

OUR SPORTS INCLUDE:

- Aerobics
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Cricket
- Dance
- Dragon Boating
- Equestrian Competition
- Fencing
- Fitness Room
- Football
- Futsal
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Indoor Netball
- Korfbal
- Multisport
- Netball
- Rowing
- Road Race
- Rugby
- Skiing
- Sport Climbing
- Softball
- Squash
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Touch Rugby
- Trampolining
- Triathlon
- Volleyball
- Waterpolo
- Waka Ama





FUTURE PATHWAYS

KI TE AO MĀRAMA

The future is yours as young people to lead. At Avonside we know that is essential for our young people to explore all the possible avenues for their next step into an exciting future. We have a dedicated Careers' team who work with you from Year 9 to ensure you are supported with the experiences and knowledge you need for your pathway after school.

Careers advice, university and polytechnic visits will open your eyes to the opportunities you have for tertiary study after school. University groups visit regularly and provide information and support. We have a good relationship with Canterbury University and our students visit departments to meet staff and look at potential courses.

Students can also experience vocational opportunities through our extensive Gateway and Secondary Tertiary Pathways (STP).

Senior students are offered the opportunity to experience careers they may be interested in and to gain credits taking vocational courses out for a day at Ara, Vision and National Trades Academy - these include hair and beauty, hospitality, farming, building and construction, early childhood, hairdressing.

Our Police Pathways Programme also enables senior students to experience potential pathways in the police and armed forces.





CELEBRATING IDENTITY

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua. - I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past.

We believe that our young people need to be strong in their own identity to be empowered as leaders and build global relationships.

At Avonside Girls' High School/Te Kura Kohine o Ōtākaro we strive to ensure that everything we do is through a bicultural lens. This starts with the mihi whakatau to welcome our new Year 9s. Students have access to Kapa Haka within the timetable as they would to individual music lessons, and Kapa Haka is also on offer after school. We have a strong commitment to Te Reo Māori as a subject for all students and on offer to scholarship level.

Regular whānau hui give opportunity for community voice and ākonga Māori success is celebrated. Our Board and Student leadership team have co-chairs/head students and our Manu kotiro sits on the board alongside our student elect. Our strong Komiti Māori provides weekly opportunity for ākonga Māori to lead with their voice in our kura.

We are proud of the multicultural student body at Avonside and love to celebrate this. Students at Avonside come from Europe, Asia, Canada, America, and Africa to name a few. We also have a large group of International students. This makes our school a vibrant place and one where students can foster their global connections.

During the year students will celebrate language weeks and festivals with food, dance, and activities. At Avonside your young person has opportunities to be involved in a range of strong cultural groups including Kapa Haka and Polyfest.

THE ARTS

NGĀ TOI

MUSIC

Music plays a significant part in Avonside Girls' High School life. Our students study Music as a subject and are introduced to instruments and performance - solo and in groups. They investigate musical genres and study music theory. A large amount of learning happens outside of academic classes, with free music tuition available in strings, percussion, wind instruments, guitar and voice. Students are encouraged to be part of one of the many choir and musical groups within the school.

DRAMA

Boasting modern sound and lighting systems, our large professional theatres are busy with many drama opportunities including the Shakespeare Festival, theatre sports and school productions. The outstanding venues give girls the chance not only to perform, but to be fully involved in the technical aspects of staging a production, from hair, makeup and costumes, to sound, lighting and props. In class time, students workshop and investigate a number of theatre forms such as mime and improvisation, building towards a group performance.

DANCE

In our purpose built dance studios, students explore a range of expressive movement that has intent, purpose and form. Students learn to express personal, group and cultural identities, to convey ideas and to strengthen social interaction. Students are encouraged to pursue this learning in the many extra curricular dance opportunities available at Avonside Girls' High School.

VISUAL ART

Visual Art explores a range of art making skills and idea development. Visual Art provides students with the opportunity to be creative and develop their artistic talents. Students at Avonside regularly gain scholarships in Visual Arts or Photography. Avonside teams up with creatives in schools to engage local artists in school working with our students.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

KIA RANGATIRA

Our vision at Avonside is to empower our young people to be leaders of tomorrow.

The school value of Kia Rangatira is talked about with our students from their first day at Avonside. All our students are leaders in the way they present themselves, care for others, show courage daily and remain determined in their goals. Students are involved in a range of school wide decisions and will sit alongside staff in professional meetings to discuss student care and wellbeing.

Throughout their time at Avonside students will also have a number of leadership opportunities ranging from being a committee member of a school council, captaining a sports team or leading an arts or cultural group to stepping up into school-wide leadership in Year 12 and 13. We believe that leadership is most powerful when it is collective and student leaders support each other in their goals. Our student leadership team start the year with a camp designed to develop strong bonds, courage and collaboration as leaders. Through the year our student leadership team meets with the school's senior leadership team to collaborate and there are two students on our Board of Trustees.



INTERNATIONAL

International students are an important and valuable part of our school, contributing to a diverse, inclusive and enriching learning environment for all students.

Our International Students allow our students to learn about different cultures, languages, and perspectives. This is important to broaden students' horizons and prepare them for an increasingly globalised world. International students also promote culture exchange and understanding, both within the school and in the wider community. Fostering positive relationships and building bridges across different cultures and nations is beneficial to everyone.

We are passionate about empowering our international students to succeed now and in the future so they can go out into the world with a strong sense of identity and purpose. Academic success is important, but we also have a strong sense of community, and our international students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of activities including volunteering.

The international programme has welcomed students from America, Argentina, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Macau, Mainland China, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. We have students who attend for one term, a year and up to 5 years. These students stay in host families in the community, managed by the international staff.

We look forward to welcoming new international students to come and be part of Avonside Girls' High School. More information and the application form is on our school website.





AVONSIDE GIRLS'
— HIGH SCHOOL —
Te Kura Kohine o Ōtākara

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www.avonside.school.nz