

Whakatipu Wild School

Nurturing Wonder & Wellness through Nature

Information for parents whose children attend school

Wild School encourages parents to discuss your goals and aspirations for your child. We recommend you inform your child's school of your interest/intentions to enrol in our One Day Programme. You may set up a meeting with the Principal to discuss your child's current needs, and share how Wild School will benefit your child.

To prepare for your meeting with the Principal, the following links discuss the underlying philosophies and benefits of nature-play and outdoor learning.

Child psychologist and family therapist shows links between nature play and mental health:
[40 Astounding Benefits of Outdoor Nature Play for Kids \(parentswithconfidence.com\)](https://parentswithconfidence.com/40-astounding-benefits-of-outdoor-nature-play-for-kids/)

NZ's own Nathan Mikaere Wallis discusses 3-7 year olds play needs:
<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoon/audio/2595176/what-3-to-7-year-olds-need-to-learn-nathan-mikaere-wallis>

Benefits of outdoor play based on international research:
[12 benefits of outdoor play \(and tips for helping kids reap these benefits\) \(parentingscience.com\)](https://parentingscience.com/12-benefits-of-outdoor-play-and-tips-for-helping-kids-reap-these-benefits/)

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter." Rachel Carson

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks" John Muir

"Time in nature... (is) an essential investment in our children's health." Richard Louv

There are 16 One Day Forest Schools similar to us across Aotearoa. A One Day School is complementary to your child's regular school. We are a small charity running holistic health initiatives for kids, and therefore are not required to register through the Ministry of Education.

The Education and Training Act (2020) section 53 (1) states
"A board may authorise any students to undertake courses of education, gain work experience, or make visits outside the school premises."

Whakatipu Wild School does not have any paper work for your child's Principal to sign. We strongly urge obtaining permission from your Principal. We aim to connect with schools to provide supplementary opportunities to benefit your child, working towards existing individual or class learning as and where possible to give your child an alternative form of learning, in and outdoor

setting, where we have personally witnessed children thrive.

In your communication with your child's school, share our website with them. The principal may request to see more information, and you may need to submit a letter outlining how Wild School will benefit your child. We can supply our Health and Safety policies, Risk Assessment Plan, and our Insurance if the Principal requests. We value honesty and transparency, so you can find at any time our key documents & policies on our website.

In the instance that your request is turned down, you can work through the school complaint procedure, and your request will be presented to the board of trustees, who hold the final decision.

Please note that this process is between your family and the school. Although we are here and happy to answer any questions you may have that help you along the way.

Many thanks,

Sarah and Morgan

Whakatipu Wild School Charitable Trust