**Questions about school**

- **How is my child doing?** Ask your child's teacher about your child's progress and the work they are doing in class.
- **Questions to ask at school**
  - What's happening in my child's classroom?
  - Choosing a School for a Five Year Old
  - Minister of Education’s Questions about School
  - Years 9-13

**Questions about primary school**

- **When should my child start school?** Most students start school at the age of five and can continue until they are 19.
- **Boarding facilities** are available at some private schools and some integrated and private primary schools.
- **Enrolment to students living in a specified area** is called the 'school zone'.
- ERO regularly reviews and publishes reports on the quality of education all schools provide.

**Questions about secondary school**

- The New Zealand Curriculum – New Zealand students perform better than their peers internationally.
- The Ministry of Education’s Questions about School
- Years 9-13

**Learning about NCEA**

- **NCEA** is the national qualifications framework for secondary school students.
- **Terms and conditions of enrolment** are outlined in the school's terms and conditions of enrolment.
- **School zone** is an area where students are enrolled.

**Alternative secondary education**

- **Teen Parent Units** provide education for teenage parents.
- **Service academies** provide military-focused education for students aged 13 to 16.
- **Learning about NCEA** involves academic study, outdoor education and physical fitness, goal setting, leadership and life skills.
- For more information: [ERO’s booklet](https://ero.govt.nz/assets/publications/learning-opportunities-in-new-zealand.pdf)

**Years 1 to 10**

- The Ministry of Education’s Questions about School
- Years 9-13

**NCEA**

- For some students, NCEA is the maximum qualification they achieve.
- The school's careers advisor, guidance services, can help your teenager with these decisions.
- Your teenager should be able to get specialist counselling and career advice.

**Years 11 to 13**

- **NCEA** is the national qualifications framework for secondary school students.
- Education at a service academy is for students aged 13 to 16.
- A longer period. Students can study for credits at a service academy.
- For more information: [ERO’s booklet](https://ero.govt.nz/assets/publications/learning-opportunities-in-new-zealand.pdf)

**Future opportunities**

- **From education to employment**
- **NCEA** is the national qualifications framework for secondary school students.
- **Teaching** is a popular career choice for recent graduates.

**Incentives for teachers**

- **Recognition** is a national award for current or former teachers.
- **NCEA** is the national qualifications framework for secondary school students.
- ERO is the national assessment and ratings agency for New Zealand state schools.

**NCEA**

- Most Year 11 to 13 students choose their own subjects and work towards gaining NCEA credits.
- Some schools offer other qualifications such as ATAR or IB.
- For more information: [ERO’s booklet](https://ero.govt.nz/assets/publications/learning-opportunities-in-new-zealand.pdf)
Who is this booklet for?

New Zealand.

This booklet is intended for parents and whānau who have an interest in early childhood education in New Zealand. It is also intended for early childhood educators and whānau who are interested in learning about early childhood education in New Zealand.

Early childhood education

Early childhood education services in New Zealand are either teacher-led or parent-led. Teacher-led services are provided by qualified educators. They offer unique learning experiences that reflect the needs of the child and the community.

Types of services

There are several types of early childhood education services available in New Zealand, including:

- Te Whariki (early childhood services) provide a broad and flexible curriculum for children from birth to school age.
- Ko-hanga reo use Māori language and culture in their education programmes. Whānau (family) manage these services, which are located in the community.
- Kura kaupapa Māori are Māori-medium schools that provide education in both Māori and English.
- Puna ko-hungahunga are playgroups that support the learning of children from birth to school age.
- Homeschooling allows parents to teach their children at home in a flexible manner.

Resources

- The Learning Media and Resources for Early Childhood Education (LERN) website is a valuable resource for early childhood educators and families.
- ERO (Early Learning Services) provides reports on early childhood education services.
- The Ministry of Education’s website provides information about types of schools in New Zealand.

Questions about early childhood

- My child has special needs. What additional support is available?
- What is special about this service?
- How will I know what my child has learned?
- How do you make sure children are safe and settled?

Costs

- Is early childhood education free?
- How much will it cost?
- How much you will be expected to pay yourself.
- What, if any, financial help is available?

Schools

Primary & secondary schools

New Zealand’s education system is divided into primary education (years 1-8) and secondary education (years 9-13). Secondary schools are state integrated or private and run all-day education and care services. Some children in primary & secondary schools may be privately owned or operated by a community group or a company.

Independent or Private schools

These schools provide a broad and flexible curriculum and are part of the state system but have a special character (usually religious). They may be linked to a particular church. Apart from the state schools, there are also independent or private schools in New Zealand.

State schools

These schools provide free education and are part of the state education system. They are managed by the government and are run by a board of trustees. State schools provide a broad and flexible curriculum and are available at all levels of education.

Māori education

Māori medium education is based on Māori and is strongly connected to their local iwi (tribe). The curriculum reflects the language and the tikanga (custom) of the students. Students of kura develop strong connections to their local iwi and wider world.

- Te Whāriki
- Kaupapa Māori
- Te Marautanga o Te Reo Māori
- Te Marautanga o Ūmanga a Te Reo Māori
- Te Marautanga o Te Reo Pākehā

Resources

- The Ministry of Education’s website provides information about types of schools in New Zealand.
- ERO (Early Learning Services) provides reports on early childhood education services.
- Homeschooling allows parents to teach their children at home in a flexible manner.

For more information about types of schools, visit www.minedu.govt.nz
Who is this booklet for?

This booklet is for adults who educate and care for children, especially those who are new to New Zealand and the opportunities available to your child. It answers some questions you may have and tells you where you can find more information.

The information will be useful if you are new to New Zealand and want for their child.

Do you know how the New Zealand education system aims to make it easy for your child to move from early childhood education to primary school, and on to secondary school?

New Zealand's education system aims to make it easy for your child to move from early childhood education to primary school, and on to secondary school.

What does the New Zealand education system aim to make it easy for your child to move from early childhood education to primary school, and on to secondary school?

In the New Zealand education system, it is important for the child and the wider community to be involved. Before you decide, it is a good idea to meet for play, and social and learning opportunities. It can make all the difference for your child.

Learning in New Zealand

New Zealand's early childhood education system is unique. It is based on Te Wha-riki, the national early childhood curriculum, which provides a framework for educators in early childhood services. The curriculum describes learning and development in early childhood and how teachers and adults interact with children. It can be used to support the educators and parents of the children at these services. Sometimes there may also be support available there.

There can be many things to consider when choosing an early childhood service for your child. ERO's early childhood education programme provides support to educators and parents of the children at these services. The reports are on ERO's website. Parents can ask questions about the early childhood services. The reports are on ERO's website.
Who is this booklet for?

This booklet is for parents and whānau who have children about to start their New Zealand education. It also answers questions about your children's education, especially if they are about to start school in New Zealand.

Years 7 to 10 only. They are sometimes called junior secondary schools. Intermediate schools are primary schools for Years 7 to 9. Most classes start at Year 9 and go to Year 10. Some classes may include more than one year level.

Learning in New Zealand

Primary school

Primary schools are for children from Year 1 to Year 6. They are sometimes called elementary schools.

There are many different types of early childhood services, educators may not have the qualifications or experience to provide the type of education your child needs.

Family and whānau-led education

Parent and whānau-led education

Both types of education are taught by people who have the qualification or experience to provide the education your child needs.

Feasting in a ko-hanga reo

Each kura can decide when and how much English they will use in the kura. The English language is an integral part of the curriculum and all English-medium schools follow the National Curriculum for New Zealand Schools.

• Te Reo Ma-ori language is the main language.
• The curriculum reflects the language and the tikanga (custom) of the community.
• Students of kura develop strong connections to their local iwi (tribe). The curriculum reflects the language and the tikanga of the community.
• Students use te reo Ma-ori in all of their teaching and provide support and training from the Ministry of Education.

Early childhood education

Early childhood education is an entitlement in New Zealand. It is part of the State Education system.

Te Marautanga o Aotearoa

Aotearoa is a Ma-ori environment (language and culture) for early childhood, primary and secondary levels. The learning programmes may reflect the principles of Ma-ori and are strongly connected to their local iwi (tribe). The curriculum reflects the language and the tikanga (custom) of the community. The focus is on developing and supporting the holistic development of each child, and promoting their success in learning to participate as a citizen in a diverse society.

Primary and secondary schools

In New Zealand, schools are divided into primary schools (years 1 to 6) and secondary schools (years 7 to 12). In New Zealand, schools are divided into primary schools (years 1 to 6) and secondary schools (years 7 to 12).

Te Reo Pa-keha

Te Reo Pa-keha is the New Zealand government's language service. It provides information and services to help people learn and use the Ma-ori language.

Ko-hanga reo and kura (Ma-ori immersion schools)

Ko-hanga reo and kura (Ma-ori immersion schools) are part of the State Education system. They are owned and run by the community, with the guidance and support of the Ministry of Education. They are a type of community group. In some communities, ko-hanga reo offer all-day or flexible-hours services. Teachers and parents have a strong partnership of education, business sector and community organisations.

Te Reo Ma-ori

Te Reo Ma-ori is the Ma-ori language. It is one of the official languages of New Zealand. It is used in all levels of the education system. It is an important part of Aotearoa's identity and culture.

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The booklet gives parents, families and whānau choices about early childhood education in Aotearoa. It provides an overview of the country’s early childhood education system, explains how it reflects the values of the Treaty of Waitangi, and describes the different types of education available through the early childhood sector.

Who is this booklet for?

The booklet gives an insight into what education looks like in New Zealand, and it can be used by families and whānau who are planning to send their children to early childhood, primary or secondary schools.

The New Zealand education system

The New Zealand education system is based on free, compulsory teaching for children aged three to 16 years. The education of your child starts early. In New Zealand, the education of a child usually begins at 3 years of age, when they start at an early childhood education service, and ends at age 18, when they graduate from secondary school.

Primary school

Primary schools are for children aged 5 to 12 years. They are state schools or private schools. The primary school curriculum includes reading, writing, and mathematics skills through the National Standards and the New Zealand Curriculum. The education of children in Years 1 to 8 is governed by the National Standards, which are designed to ensure that children learn and develop skills in key areas.

Secondary school

Secondary schools are for children aged 13 to 18 years. They provide a range of courses, including academic, vocational, and creative pathways. The education of children in Years 11 to 13 is governed by the National Qualifications Framework, which provides a pathway for students to achieve qualifications at the end of secondary school.

Special schools

Special schools are state schools that provide education and care for children with special needs. These schools do not have to use the national curriculum, and they may choose to use a different curriculum. Special schools are part of the state system of education, and they are regulated by the Ministry of Education.

Ko-hanga reo

Ko-hanga reo are parent cooperatives that are managed by local iwi (tribes). They provide a learning environment (language and culture) for children from birth to school age. They may be language nests, playgroups, or learning programmes. Some ko-hanga reo are managed by Te Ko-hanga Reo National Trust, and others are managed by the local iwi.

Early childhood education

Early childhood education in New Zealand is either parent- or teacher-led. Parent-led education includes kindergartens, home-based services, and playgroups. Teacher-led services include community-based and centre-based services. Parents can choose the type of early childhood education they prefer, and they can also be involved in the education of their children. Before you decide, it is a good idea to visit early childhood education services and talk to educators.

In teacher-led services at least half of the education is provided, and some services may be more than 75% parent-led. In early childhood services that are a partnership of education, business sector and community, the education of your child is shared. Parents, educators, and whānau are involved in the planning and delivery of education in these services.

In early childhood services, educators are responsible for the day-to-day care and education of children. They are trained to work with children from birth to school age, and they are expected to support children in their learning and development. Educators can have up to four children in their group, and they are expected to provide individual support to children. Educators can also work with children’s families and whānau to support their learning and development.

Education in early childhood

Education in early childhood is about supporting children to develop their skills and abilities. In early childhood education, educators are responsible for the education of children, and they are expected to support children in their learning and development. Educators are expected to provide individual support to children, and they are also expected to work with children’s families and whānau to support their learning and development.

The early childhood curriculum

The early childhood curriculum is based on Te Whāriki, which is the national curriculum for early childhood education in New Zealand. It provides the basis for the education of children in early childhood. The early childhood curriculum is designed to support children in their learning and development, and it is based on the values of the Treaty of Waitangi. The early childhood curriculum is designed to support children in their learning and development, and it is based on the values of the Treaty of Waitangi.

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who is this booklet for?

This booklet gives parents, families and wha-nau some questions you may have and tells you where you can find more information about the New Zealand education system. It also answers basic questions that you might have about the different types of schools and the learning outcomes that are expected of children. This booklet is a good starting point for anyone new to New Zealand, particularly for young children and their families.

Learning in New Zealand

The New Zealand education system is unique in many ways. It includes a wide variety of early childhood education services, primary and secondary schools, and tertiary institutions. The education of your child starts early, and continues through to Year 13.

early childhood education

Early childhood education services in New Zealand are either: teacher-led or parent-led.

Teacher-led education

Early childhood services are provided by trained educators. These educators are: qualified teachers, or early childhood educators who are working under the supervision and support of a teacher. These services are funded by the Ministry of Education and are usually located in community groups, playgroups, or community groups.

Parent-led education

Parent-led early childhood education services are provided by parents or other family members. These services are usually located in a paid educator's home, or the child's home. These services are usually funded by the Ministry of Education and are usually located in community groups, playgroups, or community groups.

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Who is this booklet for?

This booklet gives parents, families and whānau = immediate or extended family the information they need about learning in New Zealand. It sets out learning outcomes for each year of primary and secondary school.
questions about school

How is my child doing? Questions to ask at school

These are the key areas schools are expected to monitor.

1. Learning
2. Engagement
3. Behaviour
4. Social and emotional health

Questions to ask at school

Why are they there? Who is responsible for this?

How can I contribute?

How do I get help?

What can I expect?

What is the best way to help?

What is the best way for me to help?

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What is the best way for me to help?
Your child’s education

Learning opportunities in New Zealand

Questions about school

How should I talk to my child about school?

• Answer questions about school by sharing stories with your child. You may have
  stories from your childhood or from other school experiences.

• Ask your child questions about school. These questions could include:
  “What is school like for you?”
  “How are you getting along at school?”
  “Do you enjoy school?”

• Encourage your child to talk about school. Some children may feel nervous or
  anxious about going to school. You can help your child feel more comfortable
  by asking questions or sharing your own feelings about school. You can also
  ask your child what they like about school and what they don’t like about school.

• Support your child to talk about school. Children may not feel comfortable
  talking about school if they are worried about being judged. You can help your
  child by making it clear that it is okay to have different feelings about school.

• Help your child to think about school. You can help your child to think
  about how school is helping them to learn.

What should I do if my child is upset about school?

• Listen to your child. Let your child talk about what is bothering them.
  You may need to listen for a while before your child is ready to talk.

• Support your child to talk about their feelings. You can help your child
  to think about what is making them upset.

• Help your child to think about what they can do to help their feelings.
  You can help your child to think about ways to cope with their feelings.

• Help your child to think about what they can do when they are upset.
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What can parents do to support their child at school?

• Help your child to think about what they can do when they are upset.
  You can help your child to think about ways to cope with their feelings.

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Questions about primary school

How is my child grouped into classes?

• Classes are usually single year groups. Most schools have one class for each
  year of their level. They may group together two, three or
  more year levels, particularly in smaller

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  year of their level. They may group together two, three or
  more year levels, particularly in smaller

Do all primary schools have boys and girls?

• Yes, all state primary and intermediate schools include

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YEAR 1 TO 8

How can I help my child at home?

• Children learn new things every day. They need
  time to explore and discover. You can help your
  child at home by asking them questions and
  giving them opportunities to learn.

• Ask your child questions about school. These questions could include:
  “What is school like for you?”
  “How are you getting along at school?”
  “Do you enjoy school?”

• Help your child to think about school. You can help your child to think
  about how school is helping them to learn.

• Help your child to think about what they can do to help their feelings.
  You can help your child to think about ways to cope with their feelings.

• Help your child to think about what they can do when they are upset.
  You can help your child to think about ways to cope with their feelings.

What will be the focus of my teenager’s programme?

• In New Zealand, most secondary schools teach students a broad range of
  subjects that help them discover their strengths and interests, and
  prepare them for further study. The school’s careers advisor, guidance

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YEARS 9 & 10

What will be the focus of my teenager’s programme?

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  subjects that help them discover their strengths and interests, and
  prepare them for further study. The school’s careers advisor, guidance

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  subjects that help them discover their strengths and interests, and
  prepare them for further study. The school’s careers advisor, guidance

YEARS 11 TO 13

What kind of support is available to my teenager?

• Teachers work with students to help them
  achieve their goals. They may help students
  with their studies or with their social needs.

• The school’s careers advisor, guidance
  can help students plan their future.

• The school’s careers advisor, guidance
  can help students plan their future.

• The school’s careers advisor, guidance
  can help students plan their future.

Questions about secondary school

How do students group into classes?

• The school zoning system groups students
  into single year levels. They may group
  together two, three or
  more year levels, particularly in smaller

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  into single year levels. They may group
  together two, three or
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  together two, three or
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Do students have boarding facilities for students?

• Boarding facilities are available at some private
  primary schools and some secondary schools.

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  primary schools and some secondary schools.

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  primary schools and some secondary schools.

What can you find on the ERO website?

• The Child – the Heart of the Matter

• Effective Teaching:

• Other ERO publications you may find useful:

• From education to employment:

• Other resources
questions about school

What should I do if I am worried about my child’s learning?

- Communicate with your child’s teacher. They can provide you with information about your child’s progress and discuss any concerns you may have.
- Attend parent-teacher meetings to discuss your child’s progress.
- Keep a record of your child’s performances, including schoolwork, tests, and other academic achievements.

What can I do to help my child at home?

- Create a quiet and organized study area in your home.
- Set a regular study schedule and help your child stick to it.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and clarify any doubts they may have.
- Read with your child regularly.

Questions to ask at school

School Trustees:

- What is the school’s mission and values?
- What are the school’s goals and priorities?
- How does the school measure student progress?
- What are the school’s policies regarding discipline?

Early Childhood Education:

- How does the school support the transition from early childhood to primary school?
- What are the key learning areas in early childhood education?
- How are learning outcomes assessed in early childhood education?

Other ERO publications you may find useful:

- Helping you ask the right questions
- Questions to ask at school

When should my child start school?

- In New Zealand, most children start school at the beginning of the year in their Year 1, which is Year 1 at primary school. However, the exact start date may vary depending on the school.

How should I prepare my child for the transition to primary school?

- Discuss the transition to school with your child.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and express any concerns they may have.
- Familiarize your child with the school environment, such as the playground and classrooms.

How do I enrol my child in a school?

- To enrol your child in a school, you will need to provide documentation, including your child’s birth certificate and immunisation record.
- You will also need to provide proof of your child’s New Zealand address and a photograph of your child.

Will my child go to the same school for all of their education?

- No, if they go to a primary school for Years 1 to 8, they will need to move to a secondary school for Years 9 to 13.

How are students grouped into classes?

- In Years 1 to 8, classes are generally made up of students from one year level. However, in Years 9 and 10, classes may be formed based on ability, with some students in Year 10 receiving mathematics and science courses.

What qualifications are available at secondary school?

- At secondary school, students can pursue a number of qualifications, including the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) and the Cambridge International Examinations. Some schools offer other qualifications such as the International Baccalaureate (IB).

What level of NCEA will my teenager need?

- Students should choose NCEA levels that reflect their strengths and interests, and what subjects they should be studying to meet their future goals. Historically, students learn at the same pace. Most schools offer different NCEA levels during a year.

What kind of support is available for my teenager?

- Secondary schools offer a variety of support options, including learning support, specialist teaching, and counselling services.
- Students with special needs can receive additional support through the Education and Training Support Services Program.

Alternative Secondary

- There are several alternative secondary school options available, including Teen Parent Units, Alternative Education, Academies, Secondary Tertiary Partnerships or Trades, and Learning opportunities in New Zealand.
Your child’s education

Learning opportunities in New Zealand

Questions about school

What should my child wear?
- Uniforms are encouraged in some schools. It’s a good idea to check this out before choosing a school. For more uniform details, check the school’s website.

When should my child start school?
- In New Zealand, most secondary schools start in Year 7 (age 13), while most primary schools start in Year 1 (age 6). However, some schools have different start years, so it’s important to check with individual schools.

Do I have to pay for my child to go to school?
- Most primary schools are free, but some secondary schools charge a fee. This fee can be for uniforms, textbooks, or other materials. You can check the school’s website for details.

Do schools have boarding facilities for students?
- Boarding facilities are available at some private primary schools and secondary schools. There are generally called hostels and charge an hourly rate or a daily rate. They are usually managed by the school.

How are students grouped into classes?
- Years 1 to 6 usually have classes with one teacher. By Years 7 and 8, classes may be divided into single sex and coeducational (mixed) classes. This is to cater for the needs of their level of educational need. Schools receive extra funding for students with special needs. If you think your child has special needs, you will need to provide documentation, including a medical report, to the school about any additional support your child may need.

Questions about primary school

In New Zealand, most secondary schools start in Year 7 (age 13), while most primary schools start in Year 1 (age 6). However, some schools have different start years, so it’s important to check with individual schools.

Do I have to pay for my child to go to school?
- Most primary schools are free, but some secondary schools charge a fee. This fee can be for uniforms, textbooks, or other materials. You can check the school’s website for details.

Questions about secondary school

Years 11 to 13
- What level of study can my teenager expect to do?
- The National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) are national qualifications. NCEA is for students aged 13 to 18 and provides a way for them to get credits across a range of subjects. Year 11 to 13 students have the opportunity to work towards achieving national qualifications. The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) website – www.nzqa.govt.nz
- NCEA Level 3 is the minimum requirement. Students must achieve Level 3 to go to a New Zealand university. They achieve the qualifications they need. They get credits across a range of subjects to meet their future training or employment goals. Students learn at the same pace. Most Year 11 to 13 students choose their own subjects.
- Will my teenager be expected to complete NCEA in Years 11 to 13?
- The National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) are national qualifications. NZQA – www.nzqa.govt.nz
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Government Education Agencies

These websites:

www.educationcounts.govt.nz

for the New Zealand education system. For reports on individual services and schools.

www.ero.govt.nz

ERÖ reviews the quality of education in schools and early childhood services and publishes ERO reviews of the quality of education all schools provide. You can also talk to your local schools' principals.

www.minedu.govt.nz

The Ministry of Education provides a range of information and services about the education sector. You may also find the ERO donation for a wider range of learning activities helps them meet their future training or employment goals.

Other ERO publications you may find useful:

- Effective Teaching:
  - School Trustees:
    - What's happening in my child's classroom
- Early Childhood Education:
  - Choosing a School for a Five Year Old
  - A Guide for Parents

From education to employment:

- Charity helps students who have learning difficulties.
- Teen Parent Units provide alternative schooling for some students who have been alienated from mainstream schools.
- Science
- Learning languages
- Health and physical

What will be the focus of my teenager's classes or tutor groups and have one teacher for their level of educational need. Schools receive funding to give the specialised assistance that students need at school.

What will your teenager do in Years 9 to 13?

- The National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) is the main assessment framework for secondary students (Years 11-13). There are six levels of NCEA, with two levels at Years 11 and Years 12 being compulsory. Students receive credits for senior secondary students (Years 11-13). There are six levels of NCEA, with two levels at Years 11 and Years 12 being compulsory. Students receive credits for the Cambridge International Examinations and the National Senior Certificate, as well as the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

Questions to ask at school

- Do schools have boarding facilities for students?
- How are students grouped into classes?
- Do all primary schools have boys and girls?
- What qualification does my teenager need to meet their future training or employment goals?
- What will be the focus of my teenager's classes or tutor groups and have one teacher for their level of educational need. Schools receive funding to give the specialised assistance that students need at school.

Questions about primary school

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