

**Scots College
Miramar, Wellington**

Confirmed

**Private School
Review Report**

Private School Review Report: Scots College

1 Background

The Chief Review Officer has a statutory duty to report on the performance of private schools throughout New Zealand.

ERO reviews of private schools are significantly different in process and more limited in scope and reporting than those for state and state-integrated schools, focusing as they do on the *Criteria for Registration* set out in section 35C of the Education Act.

Section 35I of the Education Act 1989 requires the Education Review Office (ERO) to review private schools and to report to the Ministry of Education on whether each school continues to meet the criteria for registration. The schools are privately owned and the legislative requirements are significantly different to those for state and state-integrated schools. Private schools are not required to follow the National Education Goals or National Administration Guidelines.

What does apply in place of the legislation imposed upon state schools by the Education Act is the contract between the persons paying for the tuition of the child at the school – the parents – and the school authority. Those are matters between the parent and the school's governing body. More information about ERO reviews of private schools can be found on ERO's website www.ero.govt.nz/Reviews-Process.

The criteria for registration are that the school –

- a) has premises that are suitable, as described in section 35D; and
- b) usually provides tuition for 9 or more students who are of or over the age of 5 years but are under the age of 16 years; and
- c) has staffing that is suitable to the age range and level of its students, the curriculum taught at the school, and the size of the school; and
- d) has equipment that is suitable for the curriculum being delivered or to be delivered at the school; and
- e) has a curriculum for teaching, learning, and assessment and makes details of the curriculum and its programme for delivery available for parents; and
- f) has suitable tuition standards, as described in section 35F; and
- g) has managers who are fit and proper persons (as described in section 35G) to be managers of a private school.

2 Criteria for Registration

Scots College is located in Miramar, Wellington. It is a private school catering for boys in Years 1 to 15, offering the option of boarding from Year 7. Its Presbyterian character is incorporated in the values fostered through the curriculum and daily activities.

Strategic direction promotes internationalism through building relationships with academies, schools and organisations around the world. Since ERO's 2011 review, the college has restructured as three schools, with three principals operating under the leadership of the Headmaster. Governance and management committees have oversight of campus development, curriculum and pastoral care.

Governors and leaders attest that they comply with the provisions of section 35G in respect to their being fit and proper persons to manage the college.

Suitable Premises and Equipment

The premises and equipment are suitable for the size and type of school. The designated committee oversees responsiveness to roll growth, teaching and learning needs and matters of health and safety. Buildings and grounds are well presented and maintained. High quality facilities and resources support the provision of an evolving curriculum.

Suitable Staffing

All teachers are qualified and registered. Specialist subjects are taught by staff with qualifications and skills appropriate to their fields of expertise. Teacher-to-student ratios are high, maintaining low class numbers.

Appointments are made strategically for meeting boys' all-round education needs and expectations in alignment with the school's special character, policies and procedures. Other trained and experienced personnel are employed to provide a range of services which support students' and teachers' wellbeing.

Staff performance is monitored regularly against specific and agreed indicators. A programme is in place to strengthen staff capacity for meeting the College's strategic goals.

Suitable Curriculum

The curriculum offered all year groups is suitable. It is a blend of *The New Zealand Curriculum* and the *International Baccalaureate* programmes and designed for seamless and progressive learning.

Curriculum development is responsive to community aspirations and the challenges of a changing world. The delivery structures are based on boys' ages and stages of development. They are united under the 'Scots Way' for fostering positive learner attitudes, leadership and commitment to service, with the aim of developing the 'All-Round-Man'.

The Prep School curriculum caters for boys in Years 1 to 6. It emphasises acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills for supporting learning in other areas. Middle School programmes build on these first foundations and add complexity through increased challenge and the introduction of other subject options.

Senior programmes provide students with pathways to suit their aspirations for future learning and careers. Students who enter the National Certificate of Educational Achievement and International Baccalaureate examinations achieve high levels of success compared to their New Zealand and world peers.

The curriculum offers boys opportunities to achieve success in a wide variety of academic, cultural, creative and sporting options.

Parents are regularly informed about curriculum changes and developments and their son's learning and achievement.

Suitable Tuition

Relationships across the college are positive and conducive to learning. Interactions are respectful. Teachers are organised for lesson delivery and have good content knowledge. Expectations for learning and work are shared clearly. Resources used to support teaching and learning are high quality. Teachers of Years 1 to 10 use a range of assessment tools and information to guide provision for the range of needs and abilities. Students engage enthusiastically in lessons and activities.

Strategic direction for teaching the curriculum is improvement focused. Development goals have been set to raise achievement in writing and improve analysis of assessment data for identifying students' needs and next steps more specifically. Teachers' learning is developing inquiry into how effectively their practice impacts on rates of progress in relation to curriculum expectations and levels.

3 Other Statutory Obligations

Systems are used effectively to assure the managing body that its statutory obligations in relation to monitoring of student attendance, police vetting, health and safety regulations, and student and staff privacy requirements are met.

4 Other Matters

Provision for international students

The college is signatory to the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students (the Code) established under section 238F of the Education Act 1989. At the time of this review there were 25 international students attending the college. The college has attested that it complies with all aspects of the Code.

ERO's investigations confirmed that self-review processes, for monitoring the quality of provision for international students, identify opportunities for improvement and guide future action. Processes are being developed to more regularly monitor and report to leaders how well these students achieve and progress.

Provision for students in the school hostel

Gibb House is owned by Scots College. At the time of this review it accommodated 80 boys, 38 who were full-time residents and 42 who boarded Sunday night to Friday. Actual numbers have increased since 2011 but the proportion of 9% of total student numbers is lower due to overall roll growth.

Boys' emotional and physical wellbeing is cared for through a range of pastoral-care systems and services. They have nutritious meals, good living conditions and support for learning. Boys are encouraged to take part in a variety of recreational activities, including sporting fixtures. Those boarding full time are able to go on outings and spend time in their friends' homes. Regular contact with family members is encouraged and facilitated by good access to the internet.

The hostel manager is assisted by a matron and tutors, all of who live in the hostel or on site. The college attests that it has taken all reasonable steps to meet the legal requirements relating to administration, health, safety and welfare, personnel, premises and facilities.

5 Conclusion

On the basis of the information obtained during the review, ERO considers that Scots College meets the criteria for registration as a private school set out in the Education Act 1989.



Joyce Gebbie
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Central Region

22 July 2014

About the School

Location	Miramar, Wellington	
Ministry of Education profile number	281	
School type	Fully registered private school (Years 1 to 15)	
School roll	847	
Number of international students	25	
Gender composition	Male 100%	
Ethnic composition	NZ European/Pākehā	68%
	Asian	15%
	Māori	4%
	Pacific	2%
	Other ethnic groups	11%
Special Features	Private boarding hostel (Years 7 to 15) Chapel	
Review team on site	May 2014	
Date of this report	22 July 2014	
Most recent ERO report(s)	Private School Review	June 2011
	Private School Review	October 2007
	Private School Review	August 2004