



**NELSON COLLEGE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**



Prospectus

PREPARING YOUNG MEN TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD



Mission Statement

Pietas propietas et sapientia

Honesty, loyalty & wisdom

Tradition blended with innovation

Nelson College Preparatory School is a unique learning environment. It is the only independent boys' school attached to a state secondary school in New Zealand.

Nelson College, founded in 1856, is recognised throughout NZ as a leader in boys' education both in and out of the classroom. Prep has access to a huge number of facilities on site at Nelson College. Students can be found using the reference books in the library, practising basketball in the gymnasium, performing theatre sports in the performance suite, practising their instruments in the music suite and preparing presentations on computers in their classrooms.

Prep combines the best practices of primary and secondary schooling for its Year 7 and Year 8 students.

The greatest resource the Preparatory School has is its passionate and dedicated staff. Prep students have a home room, which gives them security and stability. Specialist teachers from Nelson College are employed to share their skills in English, thinking skills, music, technology, languages, sports, drama, Kapa Haka and Te Reo.

The Preparatory School blends tradition with innovation. We use many innovative and modern teaching approaches in delivering the curriculum. For over a decade now, we have been integrating thinking and questioning strategies into our teaching.

Prep students are involved in Nelson College life and attend formal assemblies and sporting events. Our students and college students interact socially and at school events.

The Board of Trustees is committed and highly supportive of the Preparatory School. It has a strong strategic focus on student achievement and student pastoral care.

We offer an exciting opportunity to learn in a progressive and stimulating school environment. We pride ourselves on providing a wide range of opportunities for young men, that will prepare them for a bright future and allow them to take their place in the world.

Preparatory School vision

Preparing young men to take their place in the world

We achieve this by educating boys to become:

- Reflective and forward thinkers
- Innovative and creative
- Young men who value themselves and others
- Loyal to the school
- Literate in information technology
- Physically active

PHILOSOPHY

To provide a balanced learning environment that encourages and challenges boys to pursue excellence in academic, physical and personal endeavours.

GOAL

The school's goal is to make a difference to every individual and prepare boys for a smooth transition into their secondary school years. We have high expectations of our students in their academic, cultural, sporting and personal development.

Our points of difference. . .

We understand that for boys to 'take their place in the world', a number of things need to be set in place. Our point of difference is that we understand these needs and provide opportunities which allow the boys to achieve.

We have identified three aspects of Nelson College Preparatory School which we believe are central to our uniqueness in preparing boys for their future.

Focused curriculum delivered by capable and passionate teachers

- Educators with knowledge and experience in teaching boys
- High expectations placed on gaining basic literacy and numeracy skills
- High interest units designed for boys
- Timetabled lessons focusing on teaching critical and creative thinking strategies
- Specialist subject teaching from a range of college teachers
- Year 13 senior student mentors involved in sport and learning

Educational facilities that encourage excellence

- Digital classrooms – a ratio of one computer to every two students and use of up-to-date technology
- Spacious, comfortable classrooms
- Prep grounds are located within Nelson College, with shared easy access to gymnasiums, music rooms, language rooms, college library, technology block, and swimming pool
- Five one-hour periods per day, mirroring the college timetable

Clear communication with parents and pastoral care of students

- Regular reporting to parents
- Diary system
- Parent consultation evenings
- An 'open door' policy
- Approachable staff
- Teaching leadership and organisational skills
- Home room system
- A nurturing environment which fosters confidence in boys
- A clear and fair discipline system with consistent boundaries
- Regular social functions for both students and families
- Supportive and involved parent body

LEARNING FOR LIFE



Academic programme

English

- Daily periods dedicated to teaching core literacy skills
- Fostering regular reading habits
- Developing confidence and experience with written composition
- Creative writing programme
- Public speaking skills developed through speeches and debates
- Development of strong listening skills

Mathematics

- Daily periods dedicated to teaching core numeracy skills
- Basic facts and arithmetic a focus
- Streamed classes based on ability
- A strong problem-solving component
- Effective tracking of boy's performance via national-based testing

The Prep timetable reflects how reading, writing and maths dominate the daily programme.

Future problem solving & thinking skills programme

These programmes develop and strengthen a student's ability to:

- Develop creative thinking skills
- Learn problem-solving strategies
- Develop team work skills
- Improve oral and written communication
- Exercise critical and analytical thought
- Engage in real-life problem solving
- Develop, utilise and improve research techniques

The academic programme also includes music, technology, drama, art, languages and Maori.



Physical education & sports

We know that for young men to 'take their place in the world', boys must be physically active and challenged on a regular basis. The Prep sporting programme is very strong and features a range of individual, team and inter-house sporting events.

Sporting opportunities

include:

Athletics	Cross-Country	Softball	(Football and Rugby are catered
Basketball	Touch Rugby	Skiing/Snowboarding	for by local clubs)
Cricket	Mountain biking	Volleyball	

We stress the importance of sport in the all-round development of healthy young men, by providing the opportunity for:

- Regular physical education and sports
- The development of leadership skills through sporting events
- Summer sports tournament and Prep house sports competitions
- Participation in an inter-school sporting event
- Participation at the top level for their age group, in basketball, cricket and volleyball
- Annual ski trip to Rainbow skifield
- The enjoyment of sport for its own sake



Outdoor education

Outdoor Education provides many positive outcomes. Programmes range from visits to the local Nelson Museum, to estuary field trips and class camps at the Abel Tasman and Tongariro National Parks, Nydia Bay and Matakia Lodge.

We aim to provide our students with:

- EOTC (Education out of the classroom) experiences in all areas of the curriculum
- An appreciation for the natural environment and conservation management
- The opportunity to gain physical, mental and emotional well-being through positive experiences
- The opportunity to develop self confidence and independence, whilst staying away from home.
- Access to Nelson College's Matakia Lodge, an outdoor pursuits centre near Murchison.

The experience our students gain from the outdoor education programme will give them a love of the outdoors, as well as developing their confidence and skills to tackle new challenges in life...



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