



GENERAL BOARDING INFORMATION

Founded in 1856, Nelson College is New Zealand's oldest state secondary school. The college has an enviable reputation for quality education and a tradition of excellence in sporting, music and cultural activities for boys. The best of traditions are blended with a broad-based curriculum and the most up to date facilities. This is further enhanced by a longstanding connection with Nelson College for Girls. Boarding and college staff strive to provide a positive caring environment where young men can develop to their full potential whatever their chosen endeavour. Students are encouraged to strive for high academic achievement and excellence in extra-curricular activities. A well-rounded education and the experiences of boarding life provide a sound base for a student's future.

The boarding houses of Nelson College, Barnicoat and Rutherford, are situated in the park-like grounds of the college only a short distance from the city centre of sunny Nelson. The houses are well equipped with all the modern facilities appropriate to the needs of 120 boys. Each house has a roll of approximately 60 students accommodated in separate rooms and cubicles. Boarding students are encouraged to make their personal sleeping areas attractive with small personal possessions. Common facilities for all houses include the college dining room and sanatorium. Library, computer and sports training facilities are also available for the use of boarders outside normal school hours.

Each house is supervised by a team of resident and non-resident staff who work hard at meeting the physical, emotional and academic needs of each student. Many of the boarding staff are also full-time teaching staff who aim to fully integrate boarding and school life.

For guidance, students are encouraged to talk to boarding and college staff. The college guidance counsellors, deans, homeroom teachers and other college staff are available to consult with students and/or parents. For more serious problems, the college has access to outside expertise. The careers advisor provides information and advice on careers, tertiary education, training courses and subject choice.

A fully qualified nurse is available to offer medical treatment for minor injury or illness. In more serious cases the boarding staff seek external professional medical support from Nelson Accident and Emergency Department at Nelson Hospital and from local medical clinics.

Contact with home is important and every student is encouraged to contact home regularly. Parents can phone their sons before school and dinner and after prep in the evenings. A message can also be left with the Housemaster. Provision is made for boarders to receive leave at the weekends to visit relatives or family friends in Nelson and visits home during weekends are encouraged and facilitated.

The Housemasters communicate regularly with parents via newsletters, reports, and regional meetings. Parents who wish to visit are always welcome. The college hosts two sports and music weekends annually when boarding parents are invited to meet college and boarding staff and enjoy a taste of college life.

The boarding facilities at Nelson College are seven-day, offering all the benefits of full traditional boarding life. However, where family circumstances and home situations warrant it, and subject to school requirements, weekend leave may be arranged in consultation with the Housemasters. Because so many of the boarding students live considerable distances from the college, full facilities are provided over long weekends, and a special effort is made to look after those students who do not travel. Over the longer holiday breaks the college can in some circumstances arrange alternative accommodation locally. This will incur extra cost to the parents.

The Housemasters and staff aim to encourage the full participation of boarding students in all aspects of boarding and college life. Considerable emphasis is given to academic progress with regular supervised study periods (prep) an integral part of boarding life. Extra tuition is provided where required. Nelson College also has a well-established English training unit for speakers of other languages.

In addition, a wide range of recreational activities, including regular sports, music and drama events, are available to students. The college caters for all major sporting codes and has been well placed in many national sporting events. Students at the college are involved in a successful outdoor education programme, including week-long visits to the college's lodge in the Matakītaki Valley behind Murchison.

The college boarding facilities attract secondary school age students from throughout New Zealand and from across the Pacific Islands, Asian and the European continents. A limited number of places are available for younger students attending Nelson College Preparatory School (age 9-12). Parents are welcome to place their sons on a waiting list by contacting the Prep secretary.

The student house leaders motivate the younger students in the many house activities. This effort is rewarded with special privileges including more flexibility in the use of free time and invitations to special school functions. Each house appoints a Head and Deputy Head of House. Each house runs a tutor system who meet regularly to discuss daily routines and concerns.

Leave Procedures

The boarding and college staff are required to have knowledge of the whereabouts of all students at all times. For this reason, no student is to leave the school grounds at any time without the permission of the Housemaster or other supervising house staff.

When a student leaves the house or the grounds, he must report out giving details on the purpose and destinations of the outing and on return report in to the Housemaster or duty master. A register is kept for this purpose. (This does not apply to short excursions in class time when a teacher is in charge)

DAY LEAVE ON A WEEK DAY

This will be granted only with the express permission of the Housemaster and only for very good reason.

TOWN LEAVE WEEK DAY

Town leave may be granted by the Housemaster or duty staff between 3.30 pm and 5.30 pm on a weekday.

A weekday routine.....

7.10 am	Wake-up call
6.45 – 7.45 am	Breakfast – students must have breakfast
8.15 am	House inspection. Beds made, areas tidy, duty done by 8.00 am
8.40 am	Bell for homeroom (in house) to be there by 8.45 am
1.25 pm	Lunchtime and return to House
2.15 pm	Bell for school. Year 9 – 12 are to leave house by 2.05 on at the latest
3.15 pm	End of school, return to House. Afternoon tea, sport etc
5.45 pm	Any day leavers return and sign in with afternoon supervisor
6.00 pm	Dinner
6.40 pm	5 minute warning bell for prep / meeting
6.45 pm – 8.15 pm	Supervised study time (Prep)
9.00 pm	Phones / Devices collected (Year 9 – Year 11)
9.15 pm	Juniors' to get ready for bed (in bed 9.30pm, lights out & quiet by 9.45pm)
9.30 pm	Yr 11 to get ready for bed (in bed at 9.45pm, lights out & quiet by 10pm)
10.15 pm	Yr 12 to get ready for bed (in bed at 10pm, lights out & quiet by 10.15pm)
10.30 pm	Yr 13 in own rooms and silent.

On the weekend

8.00 am	Breakfast eaten and lunches to be made
9.00 am	Beds made, duties completed to required standard
6.15 pm	Evening leave (if permitted)

Boarding students at Nelson College enjoy a varied lifestyle with relative freedom. For the benefit of all students and staff, clear boundaries based on common sense are maintained with the consequences of negative actions well known. Parents are always welcome to visit the school and houses.

BOARDING FACILITIES

Dining Room

A varied menu is designed by our Catering Manager with the needs of young men in mind. The nutritional requirements in meals are monitored by the Catering Manager and on occasions dietary consultants. Every effort is made to cater for all the special requirements of students. Prior to enrolling your son with us, please discuss any dietary requirements your son may have.

Sanatorium

The college sanatorium, staffed by a fully qualified registered nurse and resident trainee nurses, provides for the treatment of both day and boarding students. The san provides accommodation for boarding students who suffer accidents and illnesses. For more serious medical requirements the college accesses the services of the A & E Department of Nelson Hospital (five minutes' walk from the college) and several medical clinics. The Housemasters and support staff have wide experience in assisting students with special health requirements.

Gymnasiums

Two well equipped college gymnasiums are available for the use of boarders after school for regular sports training and games. The gyms can accommodate most sporting codes including a mezzanine gallery in the new gym available for table tennis and indoor bowls. Attached to the gym is a fully equipped weights room. College staff are available to offer guidance on involvement in sporting codes and training methods. The college swimming pool is also available for the after-school use of boarding students, with staff supervision.

Music Practice Rooms

The college has a reputation throughout New Zealand for the quality and diversity of student music performances. Boarding students are given the opportunity to be involved in a range of activities as well as to learn an instrument. Instruments are available for hire from the Music Department. Boarding students learning an instrument can use the music practice rooms after school and during the evenings.

House Handbooks

Detailed information relating to daily routines and house administration is provided in a house handbook on the college website.

Visiting the College

Prospective boarding parents and their sons are welcome to visit the college, view the facilities and meet staff at any time. Please contact the Director of Boarding for an appointment.

Samme Hippolite

Director of Boarding

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