



# KOROMATUA SCHOOL

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## Cohort entry consultation decision

The Koromatua School Board of Trustees has finished a community-wide consultation process for cohort entry. The community found the policy of cohort entry to be generally acceptable.

### **The board has decided we will adopt cohort entry at the start of Term 2 of 2021 and there will be two entry points per term.**

We are starting in Term 2 of 2021 as we need to give at least one term's notice of the change to parents, staff, and local early learning services.

#### **The benefits of cohort entry**

Cohort entry is about helping children to settle better in school. There is evidence that starting school alongside other children helps them build relationships and supports a smoother entry to school life.

Schools that are already using cohort entry believe it offers their children the best start to their school life. It can also mean less disruption for new entrant teachers who can prepare for groups of children arriving on a specific date rather than on an individual and ad hoc basis through the year.

#### **The impacts of cohort entry**

##### When a child can start school

In Term 1 as soon as a child turns five, they can start school.

From 3/05/2021 (Term 2), children can only start school on two entry points a term after they have turned five. One on the first day of term and one at a mid-point during a term.

Cohort entry does not replace the legal requirement that a child start school at age six. Parents, caregivers and whānau can still choose to not enrol their student before then.

#### **2021 term dates for schools with continuous entry**

TERM	START OF TERM DATE		END OF TERM
1	9/02/2021**		16/04/2021

#### **2021 mid-term dates for schools with cohort entry**

TERM	START OF TERM DATE	MID TERM DATE*	END OF TERM
2	3/05/2021	8/06/2021 (Tuesday)	9/07/2021
3	26/07/2021	30/08/2021	1/10/2021
4	18/10/2021	15/11/2021	20/12/2021

\*The mid-point of each term will be the Monday nearest to halfway between the first and the last day of the term. If the Monday falls on a public holiday the next working day will be used as the mid-term date.

\*\*The date used for the first term is the latest possible term start date. Even if your school uses an earlier start date than the day after Waitangi Day, or finishes before the latest possible end date for Term 4, the mid-term dates will apply for the purposes of a cohort entry policy.

### Enrolment at Koromatua School

The latest the child can enrol at school is on the day of an entry point. If they fail to enrol, they will need to wait until the next entry point.

We encourage parents to pre-enrol their child a whole term before their eligible entry point. This will allow the school to:

- prepare for the child's first day of school.
- schedule pre-visits.

The board recommends pre-enrolling a child a year before their fifth birthday. This will allow the board to:

- provide sufficient staffing.
- minimise classroom shuffles.

### Early learning services

Cohort entry will affect enrolment patterns in contributing early learning services. Your child can remain at the early learning service until they start school or turn six. At five a child still qualifies for 20 Hours ECE funding.

Communicate with your early learning service so your child's position is not given away to another child.

Thank you for your assistance during the consultation process. We hope that cohort entry can provide the best start for your five-year olds.

Regards,



Stuart Cassidy  
Board Chair - Koromatua School