

Christchurch Rudolf Steiner School

An Integrated School

Kei aku nui, kei aku rahi, tēnā koutou katoa i roto i ngā āhuatanga o te wā,

The board and leadership team are excited to welcome you all to the start of Term 1, 2022. As you know there are many changes and challenges ahead to our usual school routines. Therefore, we need to call on your collective energy and goodwill to ensure an orderly and safe environment for all.

Under the COVID-19 Protection Framework all schools must operate under expectations outlined by the Ministry of Education. At Te Kura o Rudolf Steiner i Ōtautahi | Christchurch Rudolf Steiner School (C.R.S.S.) we will be following these expectations and all legislation without exception.

Our board has a Covid-Response Team that has oversight of the school's response to ministry expectations. The team will keep the school community updated with changes as required via email.

Essential overview

Under the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021, all staff (paid and unpaid), that have contact with our students including the board of proprietors, board of trustees, teacher-aides, administration staff, maintenance & grounds staff, contractors and community association members, must be vaccinated.

We must avoid all unnecessary visitors on-site under the Red Alert Level, this includes parents. Our first preference for those people requiring contact with the school office and admin team is via phone. Our phone number is: 03 337 0514. Those still needing contact in person will be required to wear a compliant mask before coming through the school gate, and to sanitize and sign in at the atrium. Please consider whether your visit is necessary. If you feel or are unwell, do not come on-site.

In accordance with the guidance within the COVID-19 Protection Framework, no member of our school community who is unwell may be on site or attend activities. Staff are to observe students on arrival and check for those who feel or are unwell. Parents and caregivers of any students presenting as unwell will be contacted to come and collect their child.

Parents/caregivers/whānau will not have access to the classrooms during school hours when students are on-site. If a meeting with a teacher is required it must be pre-arranged, conducted outside of school hours or at an agreed time/location without the presence of other students. Those participating in the meeting will follow the appropriate health measures including physical distancing, wearing of compliant masks, following good hygiene. The meeting will not go ahead if any attendee feels unwell.

Pick-ups and drop-offs are vital to the safety of the children and smooth running of the school. Therefore, we will be sending a separate communication about this shortly which will also cover the information required about the revised times of the school day.

Ventilation

Providing good old fashioned fresh air remains the most important thing we can do in our learning spaces to minimise risk for students and staff (and the same goes for you at home). We will also be receiving a CO₂ monitor in the coming weeks to further support our well-ventilated classrooms and learning spaces.

Face masks

Staff and children in Class 3 to Class 12 must wear masks when inside at school. The Government confirmed that masks (not face coverings) are required at Red Alert Level for children and staff in Years 4 to 13 when indoors. The school has a stock of compliant masks to offer to any child or adult without one at school. That means no more cloth masks, scarves, bandannas, or t-shirts pulled up over the face, for example. This is to ensure that we all wear a mask designed to cover our nose and mouth properly, following the current health mandate for medical-grade mask (for example a Type IIR/Level 2 masks), these include the widely available 'blue' medical-grade masks that many New Zealanders are already wearing.

For those of you with children who might be reluctant to wear a face covering, specific explanations about why they need to wear a face covering from parents and caregivers at home will support our staff who will act as role models at school and support every child to follow the guidelines for mask wearing.

Please note guidelines are different for staff and children in early years settings (but not for parents). Our staff will be in direct contact with caregivers and parents about the use of face masks in the younger years classrooms.

Managing cases in our school

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing a physical onsite school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can. Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

Events, activities and education outside the classroom (EoTC)

Under Red Alert Level all large hui, events and community activities have been postponed. This includes assemblies and whole staff meetings. Any curriculum related activities outside of the classroom (that might go ahead) will adhere to ministry guidelines. The board will identify and mitigate risk and take all practical actions to adhere to the requirements of any venue and provider in use.

School transport

At Red Alert Level masks complying with the health order are required on any form of school transport for students aged 12 and above (this includes school mini-bus and any parent vehicles used to transport students to and from curriculum-based events).

Since February 2020 we have all had to adapt, pivot and remain resilient. The board recognizes that 2022 will now be different to everyone's wishes and expectations. We also acknowledge that with this comes sadness and many new challenges. However, the board are assured that the special character of our kura remains woven through every facet of school life and that our incredible staff will continue to meet the needs of our students in creative and exciting ways.

The Board of Trustees alongside our Leadership Team led by our new Tumuaki, Caroline Gray, will communicate with our school community when guidance and instruction is required.

It is the responsibility of the whole school community to work together to provide a safe school environment for our children and young people.

We thank you in advance for your patience as we navigate this ever-changing Covid landscape.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Conway". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Conway
On behalf of the Board of Trustees