

## SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Intermediate schools are facing new challenges in providing for the learning needs of their students but we aim to give all our students a strong background in all eight learning areas whilst developing the five key competencies as specified in the revised New Zealand National Curriculum. This is achieved through the Core Curriculum Programme as well as the Discovery and other programmes on offer. Neither is more or less important than the other, with these other programmes offering unique learning experiences for our students.

The eight learning areas are:

- English (Humanities, Communication Literacy)
- The Arts (Performing Arts, Music and Visual Art)
- Health and Physical Education (Hauora/Health, Physical Education, EOTC, Cooking)
- Learning Languages (Te Reo Maori, and other languages)
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Science
- Social Sciences (covered through Humanities and Global Discoveries {which includes Geography and History})
- Technology (Cooking, Materials/X-PLO Tech, Sustainable Enterprise and Digital Technology)

The five key competencies are:

- Thinking – using creative, critical and reflective processes to make sense and question information, experiences and ideas
- Using language, symbols and texts – working with and making meaning of the codes in which knowledge is expressed
- Managing Self – self motivation, a ‘can do’ attitude; the ability to establish personal goals, make plans, set high standards for self. Knowing about who you are, where you come from and you fit in.
- Relating to others – interacting effectively with a diverse range of people in a variety of contexts.
- Participating and contributing – participating actively in local, national and global communities.

Nurturing young lives is an immense responsibility that we share with you, the parents/caregivers and your child’s wider whānau and we take this very seriously. Ensuring that the children in our care are confident, connected, actively involved lifelong learners who are well prepared to engage with life as contributing citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, able to communicate and negotiate, to think critically and to live life with dignity, care and compassion, is not only our responsibility, but also our delight. We believe all young people in NZ schools have the right to gain, through a state school system, a broad, balanced education that prepares them for effective participation in society.

The specialisation model we introduced in 2010 means our students have to immediately come to terms with the key competencies in a very real and meaningful way: such as managing self, thinking and relating to others to better and more effectively prepare them for secondary school. This *is* a big call for our new Year 7 students, but we believe this transition between the full home room at primary schools to full specialisation at secondary school will make that change easier and more effective.

Whilst making a caring educational environment where all students will develop an enthusiasm for learning, we are also able to offer our students a myriad of other special programme activities and options, coupled with the emphasis on academics, extension and recovery work.

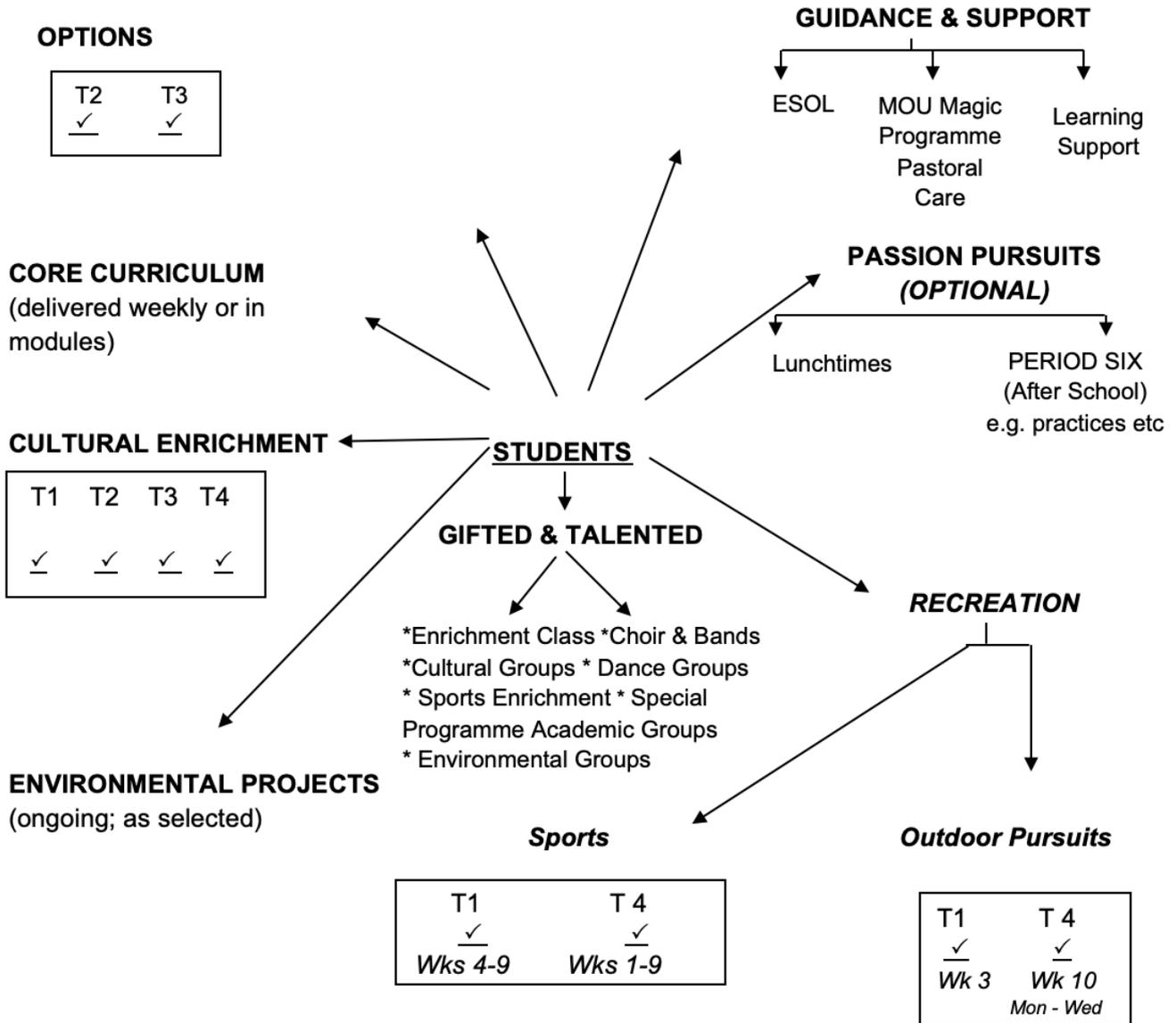
Your child will be in a small class of approximately 24-26 students (mixed Year 7 and 8) and will rotate around teachers specialising in the core curriculum subjects. They will interact with others from throughout the school when they are involved in the Discovery programmes. This involves Options; Cultural groups and a modular recreation programme of sports and outdoor pursuits. Any interested students can also be involved in the after school Period 6 activities. The school will be incredibly busy and exciting.

The purpose of the Discovery Programmes, especially Options, is to give all students a ‘taste’ of a subject. Students will then be in a better position to make informed decisions when selecting subjects for secondary school. It is also important to

note that these subjects tend not to be offered at other schools at this level. Our students are fortunate to have these opportunities and student needs will be totally addressed in this system - extension and recovery needs.

Our aim is to use the very best of primary teaching i.e. teaching the individual holistically using an inquiry approach, with the very best of the secondary specialist curriculum teaching approach of expert knowledge of and passion for the curriculum, for the benefits of students.

**In Summary:**



***“A student at Manurewa Intermediate School will receive a broad, balanced and ‘academic priority’ education setting them up for secondary, tertiary or a trade education, the world beyond, and the 21<sup>st</sup> century!”***