Frequently Asked Questions

Enrolment scheme for Oamaru Intermediate School

As a parent or caregiver, you might have specific questions about enrolments and enrolment schemes. If it is not covered here, you can email us – [otagosouthland.enrolmentschemes@education.govt.nz](mailto:otagosouthland.enrolmentschemes@education.govt.nz)

Can I enrol a child at any school in Oamaru?

Not necessarily. There are state schools in Oamaru that have enrolment schemes which help the school manage its roll. A school with an enrolment scheme has a home zone, which is a geographically defined area around the school.

* Students living inside the zone are guaranteed a place at the school.
* Students who live outside the zone can apply to enrol but acceptance of their application is subject to places being available for them – and if there are fewer places available than there are applicants, their acceptance is subject to the outcome of a pre-enrolment process called a ballot.

Ardgowan School, Fenwick School, Papakaio School, Weston School and Pembroke School (Oamaru) already have enrolment schemes. We are currently consulting over introducing an enrolment scheme for Oamaru Intermediate School to be in place for 2022 enrolments.

How do I know what the home zone is for schools in Oamaru?

* All of the current enrolment schemes can be found at [Find a school](https://nzschools.tki.org.nz/). This includes Ardgowan School, Fenwick School, Papakaio School, Weston School and Pembroke School (Oamaru). Here you’ll be able to view the home zone on a map of the local area and its written description.
* Information about enrolment schemes is also available on each school’s website, or through contacting the school for information.

We are currently developing a new scheme for Oamaru Intermediate School. Information about the proposed enrolment scheme can be found at <https://consultation.education.govt.nz/education/oamaru-intermediate-es>. The new enrolment scheme will be effective from and including for the 2022 school year and based on current roll numbers, there is no guarantee that there will any new out of zone placements for 2022.

**Why does Oamaru Intermediate School need an enrolment scheme?**

An enrolment scheme is a tool to help schools manage the roll. This is needed to prevent the risk of overcrowding and ensure that the school does not have more students than its facilities can cope with. It’s important that Oamaru Intermediate School has an enrolment scheme so it can grow in a managed way.

Waitaki District Council is looking at its growth across Oamaru and there is potential for housing development that will grow over time, and it’s important that local students have access to their local school.

Why are the schemes for the other Oamaru schools who have enrolment schemes not being reconsidered?

Changes are not required for these enrolment schemes at this time.

What is a home zone?

A defined geographical area, with its boundaries indicated by street names and numbers among other features.

Home zones are consulted over before being finalised – we need to understand any geographic, access or community implications before these come into effect. If you have any comment about the proposed home zones for Oamaru Intermediate School, please complete the survey, or email us at [otagosouthland.enrolmentschemes@education.govt.nz](mailto:otagosouthland.enrolmentschemes@education.govt.nz)

**If we live inside the home zone of a state school, does that school have to accept our enrolment application?**

Yes. Living in the enrolment scheme home zone means you have entitlement to enrol your child at that school. It’s important to note that schools may ask for proof that you genuinely live at the address in the home zone, and it’s your responsibility to provide evidence to show this.

**If we live outside the home zone of a state school, can we still get my child into that school?**

Not necessarily. Schools can enrol some out of zone students, but only if the Board of Trustees determines it has space available after all in-zone students are enrolled or planned for. It is possible that Oamaru Intermediate School will not have space of any out of zone students in the next few years.

There are processes that Boards follow to enrol out of zone students, and these only happen at certain time of the year. More information can be found about these processes [here](https://www.education.govt.nz/new-zealands-network-of-schools/about-enrolment-schemes/frequently-asked-questions-about-enrolment-schemes/) or by contacting the School for more information.

**If we live one street or a few street numbers away from a school’s home zone boundary, can my child still attend the school?**

No. You are considered to be outside the zone and should refer to the question above.

I am currently attending a Year 1-6 primary school in Oamaru, does this mean I can attend Oamaru Intermediate School in Year 7?

Not necessarily. Your entitlement to enrol at Oamaru Intermediate School depends on where you live at the time of enrolment, not at the school attended. If you are not living in the home zone, and are attending a Year 1-6 contributing primary, you will have a Year 7 option that is reasonably convenient that you will be entitled to enrol at. If you aren’t sure and want to discuss your situation further, please email – [otagosouthland.enrolmentschemes@education.govt.nz](mailto:otagosouthland.enrolmentschemes@education.govt.nz)

**What is grandparenting or a transitional arrangement?**

The enrolment scheme legislation allows for transitional arrangements for families impacted by zoning changes. This is commonly known as ‘grandparenting’.

A transitional arrangement (often referred to as grandparenting) can be included in new or amended zones to help reduce the impact of enrolment schemes to families that are already enrolled at the school. This means that younger siblings can enrol at the same school as their older brother or sister and gives families certainty about their enrolment eligibility, without having to wait for an out of zone process. It means these students would be treated as in-zone and have the same entitlement to enrol as if they lived in the home zone.

Transitional arrangements do not apply to everyone – criteria must be met. A grandparenting clause is not being considered for Oamaru Intermediate School as the potential numbers of students that would qualify are not likely to be managed within the existing network.

Growth that may result from changes to the Waitaki District Spatial Plan may also put pressure on the capacity of the school. Including a transitional arrangement may add to the risk of overcrowding at Oamaru Intermediate School.