

# Independent of Schools New Zealand

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*“Choice, Innovation & Environment”*



**ISCA Conference  
Workshop  
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Independent Schools Overseas  
New Zealand**

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# What is an independent school in New Zealand?

- An independent or private school is any school that is not part of the government controlled state-education system.
- Independent schools educate around 4% of New Zealand school children, or about 30,000 students.
- There are about 102 independent or private schools, although Westmount School operates about 15 satellite campuses.
- Independent schools range in size from those with few than 40 to those with over 1500 students.



# Who owns and controls an independent school?

- The majority of independent schools are separate entities and are self-managing.
- The majority are owned by and run by Boards of Trustees and are not for profit organisations.
- They must adhere to their constitution and all relevant laws as well as parliamentary and local authority regulations, eg employment laws, OSH, ERO, NZ Teachers Council.



# Who owns and controls an independent school? cont'd

- Independent schools are not required to report to the Ministry of Education except for:
  - Roll numbers
  - When a student is expelled.



# Putting independent schools in perspective

- **Primary and intermediate schools**

State	1777
State integrated	238
Private	36

- **Composite schools**

State	67
State integrated	22
Private	46 – this is where the concentration is



## Putting independent schools in perspective cont'd

- **Secondary schools**

State	248
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State integrated	69
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Private	20
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- **Special schools**

State	47
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Private	1
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- There is a higher proportion of single sex, boarding and composite schools in the private sector than in the state sector.



## Teaching staff

- Independent schools tend to have lower pupil/staff ratios and more male teachers.



## State funding

- The state grant was capped in 2000 by the incoming Labour Government.
- At that time it was calculated at 30% (Y1-10) and 40% (Y11-15) of the average cost of educating a child in the state system.
- The current per capita has decreased by over 30% in real terms since 2000 due to inflation and roll growth.



## Student numbers

	<b>State</b>	<b>State Integrated</b>	<b>Independent</b>
<b>Primary (Years 1-8)</b>	421,750	50,076	13,293
<b>Secondary (Years 9-13)</b>	228,496	33,076	16,065



## What is an integrated school?

- The majority of state integrated schools were formerly private or independent schools.
- There are about 325 enrolling, approximately 11% of the school-aged population.
- The majority are Catholic (238).
- The property is owned and operated by a board of proprietors.
- The school receives a per student grant to assist with property maintenance and the equivalent decile funding operational grant.



## What is an integrated school? cont'd

- The teacher salaries are paid by the state.
- Most schools receive about 99% of the equivalent funding provided to an equivalent decile state school.
- Fully responsive to Ministry of Education and government requirements.

Except

- They all have a special character –
  - Religious
  - Philosophical
  - Pedagogical.



## What is an integrated school? cont'd

- Some positions may be tagged, eg the Principal might have to be a practising Catholic.
- They tend to charge relatively modest fees except for a few who charge quite significant fees.



# Independent Schools of New Zealand (ISNZ)

- ISNZ has good interaction with many other independent or private schools and associations, eg
  - Christian Schools Associations (includes different groupings)
  - Exclusive Brethren schools.
- Member schools are also very involved in their “local school clusters” of all schools in an area, eg specific subject, sports, cultural, professional development.



# The role of the Education Review Office (ERO)

- Independent schools are required by law to be reviewed by the Education Review Office every three years.
- The review is against the statutory requirement to be efficient, and is not the same as the review of a state school.
- ERO does not conduct an assess and review process in independent schools.
- Independent schools are not required to implement government priorities.



# Teaching and Curriculum

- Teaching methods and curriculum are as diverse as the schools.
- Many rely on traditional approaches, combined with very innovative techniques.
- Others have a particular pedagogical philosophy underpinning their curriculum.



# Curriculum

- Many independent schools follow the state curriculum including offering NCEA and scholarship but build other elements on to it.
- Others also offer International Baccalaureate at senior, middle or junior level.
- Others also offer Cambridge International examinations, and may in the future offer the Cambridge primary curriculum.



## Curriculum cont'd

### Christian schools:

- Many of the non ISNZ member schools belong to one or more Christian Schools Associations and some of them offer the ACE (Accelerated Christian Education) curriculum.
- Christian schools may also offer the national curriculum but teach from a biblical worldview perspective.



## Values and philosophy

- Many of the schools have a strong spiritual, religious or values structure that they will expect all staff to consider when applying to teach at the school.
- A number of ISNZ member schools have strong links to either the Anglican or Presbyterian churches; there is one Jewish school and several with a “Christian philosophy”. There are no specific Lutheran, and few Baptist schools in New Zealand.
- The Christian Schools Association link many other schools who also have strong links to their respective Christian philosophies.



## Children in ISNZ member schools

- Parents choose an independent education for their children because they believe it brings out the best in every child, whatever their abilities.
- The majority of children at ISNZ member schools are from families that are “first time users” of independent schools.
- Independent schools are not “just for the wealthy”.
- Many of the students will be on scholarships or grants.



## Children in ISNZ member schools cont'd

- Often many family members work to provide the fees for a particular child to attend a school that best suits that child's education needs.
- Students come from a wide variety of cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds.
- Academic success is only part of the “high performance model” that ISNZ member schools aim for.

