



Welcome to

THE DIO DIFFERENCE

We welcome your application



WAIKATO DIOCESAN
School for Girls



Waikato Diocesan School for Girls is a state-integrated Anglican day and boarding school with a roll of around 670 students. With well-established traditions of excellence and an enviable record of academic, sporting and cultural achievements, Dio is widely recognised as one of the highest performing girls' schools in New Zealand.

A special character education

As an Anglican girls' boarding school, our special character underpins and informs everything that we do.

Our Christian values are the clay from which the character of our students is moulded. While literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and problem solving are important in preparing our students for their future careers, their social, emotional and spiritual development will prepare them for a meaningful life to be lived well.

Academic excellence, success in arts and sports, the 'home away from home' boarding experience – all these different reasons that parents select our school for their daughters – are inextricably linked to our special character because our faith shapes our practice and informs our appreciation of each unique individual and our desire for them to achieve to their fullest potential.



A home away from home

Boarder families send their daughters to Waikato Diocesan for many reasons: the caring boarding experience, the all-round education, the special character, and the family atmosphere.

Students live with others from their academic year in one of five boarding houses. All meals are included in the fees and each house is centrally heated, carpeted and furnished.

Professional, nurturing boarding staff provide the students with a safe and positive place in which to live and grow. Homework is supervised and subject specialists provide additional tuition if needed.

For the school's some 160 boarders, developing caring attitudes towards each other and the wider community is the foundation of their boarding

experience. Through a school-wide peer support programme and icebreaker weekend at the start of the year, students quickly find friends, mentors, and 'big siblings' among the older students.

Waikato Diocesan School for Girls' boarding promotes a safe and caring environment in which students can grow into confident, responsible young adults.



Educating young women

There are many advantages to young waahine being educated in girls' schools where there are no expectations to fulfil traditional gender stereotypes in the subjects that they study, the activities they participate in or the careers they pursue.

Girls' schools create a culture of strong academic achievement and leadership. Dio students are free to pursue academic and extra-curricular excellence in any area they choose - without the competition and social pressure from boys.



Academic achievement

At Dio, we see school as a place to seek and build knowledge, explore new ideas and work to achieve the highest possible standards.

Dio students perform admirably when compared with national averages and across all year levels. While such national benchmarking is important, our primary goal is to challenge each student to achieve at the highest level of which they are capable.

At each level, students are mentored through course selection, goal setting, learning needs, time management, and study skills.

Field trips, visiting speakers, national and international competitions, access to technology and e-learning, and excellent teaching resources and facilities all enhance the learning experiences of our students. Every opportunity is taken to give students real-world experiences and hands-on tasks as part of their learning and students are encouraged to extend themselves to reach their full potential, in an environment of healthy challenges.

While our results may vary from year to year, the statistics highlighted, showcases our achievement rates of our students gaining NCEA in Level 2 and 3.

- **One hundred per cent of students gain Literacy across Level 2 and 3.**
- **One hundred per cent of students in level 2 and 3 gain Numeracy.**

Please note: Waikato Diocesan School for Girls are currently not completing NCEA Level 1. We offer a Waikato Diocesan School for Girls Certificate of Achievement based on their Grade Point Average results. We feel this programme better prepares our students for NCEA Level 2.



NUMERACY & LITERACY

90%

Over 90% of Year 10 students gain NCEA Numeracy & Literacy co-requisites

NCEA LEVEL 2

100%

100% of our Year 12 students gain this certificate

NCEA LEVEL 3

95.3%

95.3% of our Year 13 students gain this certificate

Junior Learning Programme

YEAR 9 PROGRAMME OF LEARNING

Each student is placed in a class that will best suit their learning needs. This class placement is based on their placement test results, information from contributing schools and any further information that is required. All classes are challenging, and at Dio students are expected to maximise their learning opportunities.

Mission of the Junior Programme of Learning at Waikato Diocesan School for Girls:

To provide a programme in which each student is given a broad and sound foundation in order to develop their personal and interpersonal skills, and to assist them in building meaningful relationships with God, with self, with others, with society and with the environment. The Junior Programme of Learning will also provide each student with an appropriate level of challenge and support so that they can develop the necessary skills and learning strategies to equip them for the academic rigour of the senior school.

The curriculum at Year 9 is designed to give students a sound foundation of content and skills and to enable them to make informed subject selections as they move through to the senior school.

A. All students study the following subjects during the year:

Year-Long Courses

- English
- Mathematics
- Physical Education & Health
- Religious Education
- Science
- Social Studies

B. Year 9 students study one language for the entire year unless they are on an individualised learning programme. Students choose from one of the following:

Year-Long Language Courses

- French
- Te Reo Maaori

Students who require extra literacy support will do so instead of studying a language. This will be at the discretion of the HoD Learning Support and in consultation with parents/caregivers.

PLEASE NOTE: While every effort will be made to give students their first language selection, this cannot be guaranteed due to timetabling constraints and the viability of running courses for small class numbers. However, we will endeavour to cater for everyone's preferred choices.

C. All students also study four of the following subjects as foundation modules during the year, including at least one arts subject and one technology subject:

Arts

- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- Music

Technology

- Design and Visual Communication (DVC)
- STEAM Studio
- Fashion and Design
- Food Technology

PLEASE NOTE: While every effort will be made to give students their first four choices, this cannot be guaranteed. Please be assured that none of these foundation modules are prerequisites for taking the subject the following year. Even if a student does not study a subject as a foundation module in Year 9, they can still enrol in that subject as a Year 10 student.





ADVANCED LEARNING SUPPORT (ALS)

The learning needs of gifted and talented students are accounted for in personalised advanced learning programme.

Advanced learning support is holistic in nature to support gifted and talented students' development within their area(s) of capability, whilst concurrently supporting their social and emotional well-being and growth. There is a focus on fostering resilience within these students in order that they may be able to make choices that lead them to live fulfilled, meaningful and satisfying lives.

The Individual Education Programme is the foundation for ensuring that students are provided with educational opportunities that allow talents to flourish. We meet regularly with students to discuss their needs and to put in place strategies to ensure those needs are being met.

These strategies could include:

- Extension work in class
- Curriculum compacting, allowing for in-depth inquiry
- Individual subject acceleration to a higher year level
- Utilising Te Kura – The Correspondence School
- University papers

We also provide enriching co-curricular experiences. These could include field trips, workshops and speakers. Alongside the academic support, students receive regular mentoring from the Head of Advanced Learning.

LEARNING SUPPORT

The role of learning support is to provide a needs-based learning support structure so that all students have an opportunity to reach their true potential.

This is achieved through:

- Provision of appropriate resources
- Modified programmes / assessments / IEPs
- Small group and individual support
- In-class support/withdrawal support

Who is Eligible for Learning Support?

Priority is given to students who have been identified through assessment as having significant learning needs. This information is obtained from school-based assessment, contributing school information, educational psychology reports, community and caregiver information. Support is offered across the curriculum and across all year levels.

Tutoring programmes and Lunchtime tutorials

Different subject areas run tutorials at lunchtime for students.

Peer tutoring

Senior students volunteer to tutor in a particular subject area and are matched up with junior students.



Kaupapa Maaori at Dio

Kaupapa Maaori at Waikato Diocesan is whaanau based and whaanau focused.

Inclusive of Te Reo Maaori me oona tiikanga and kapa haka, students gain a sense of pride and belonging under the leadership of our Amokura (Maaori student leader) and their Mana Waahine council. This team promotes and leads key events during the year in which all of our school community can get involved.

All Year 11 students attend a special camp at Tuurangawaewae Marae in Ngaaruawaahia – home of one of our most famous Old Girls, the late Maaori Queen, Te Arikinui, Dame Te Atairangikaahu. This very spiritual camp aims to help students understand more about Kaupapa Maaori, which is underpinned by Tainuitanga, and experienced in the very heart of the Kiingitanga.



Dio's extra-curricular opportunities

Dio offers over 40 different extra-curricular and cultural activities such as kapa haka, culinary fare, debating, Duke of Edinburgh, orchestra, sports climbing, and rowing.

Dio's wide range of individual and team sports allows every student to find an activity they enjoy, regardless of ability or aptitude. In fact, on most weekends throughout the year, Waikato Diocesan has around a 78 per cent participation rate in team sport compared with the national average of around 53 per cent.

Top facilities, a wide a range of sports codes, expert teachers and coaches help our students to discover their interests and nurture their talents across all levels. Many of our students have gone

on to represent their city, region and country in their chosen sporting codes.

The arts are an integral part of school life – whether it is performing or producing art for public performances or exhibitions, or simply for personal fulfilment and enjoyment, we believe that creativity is a vital part of education. Visits to exhibitions, galleries and theatre performances ensure that students get wide exposure to the arts. On stage or back stage, there is an arts and culture opportunity for everyone.



House Spirit

Teamwork, participation and community are essential elements of the House system here at Dio. All new students and staff are placed in one of six Houses: Shackleton (red), Ross (yellow), Hillary (white), Blake (black), Scott (blue), Wilson (green) – all named after Antarctic explorers and New Zealand adventurers.

The House programme:

- Supports students by creating a community within a community
- Provides opportunities for closer relationships to other students in the same House, both in the junior and the senior school
- Creates comradery and links to our school values of Courage, Respect, Empathy, Diligence, Integrity, Tolerance:
- Provides leadership opportunities through the role of Head of House in Year 13.

Dio students wear their House colours with pride to House events such as Swimming Sports, Cross-country and House Singing. All students are able to gain points for their House throughout the year, and the Necker Cup is awarded to the winning House at the annual Prize-Giving.



Our History

In 1909, Mrs May Whitehorn established Sonning School in a small home in Milton Street, Hamilton. Sonning School began with only four pupils, however as the roll increased, the school moved to larger premises in Anglesea Street.

The school soon outgrew these premises and land was purchased and a new school built on the eastern side of the railway bridge. This school was named Sonning after the Berkshire Village from which the Whitehorn family originated.

The first Bishop of the Waikato, Cecil Cherrington, had a vision of an Anglican Girls' School in Hamilton. The Waikato Board for Diocesan Schools, formed in 1927, leased Sonning School from Mrs Whitehorn and then, in 1929, bought property at the current site in River Road, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Waikato Diocesan School was officially opened in 1928 with a roll of 13 boarders and 70 day girls. The school opened at its permanent site in 1930, consisting of its flagship building, Cherrington, the Homestead (Bankwood House), a barn, which was used as both hall and chapel, and open-air classrooms.

The school has continued to grow and has had 13 principals, and now has a roll of around 680 students.

OUR CAMPUS

At Waikato Diocesan, we maintain our facilities to ensure the learning experience is the best possible. Along with our historical buildings, we have modern science and information technology laboratories, a performing arts centre with first-class art, drama and music learning spaces, a well-resourced Library, an Innovation Hub, and a purpose-built Sports Education Centre.

And to give the mind and body a good workout, we have a top class gymnasium, fitness centre, full-sized swimming pool, netball courts, sports fields and Water Hockey Turf.

Our All Saints Chapel seats 800 and is used for services and whole-school assemblies, as well as being used by Old Girls and members of the wider community for baptisms, weddings and funerals.





DIO ECO WARRIORS

With the Kukutaaruhe Gully on our doorstep, Dio students are exposed to environmental and sustainability education through the Kukutaaruhe Education Trust Fairfield Project. The gully system extends through Claudelands and northwards towards Donny Park in Chartwell. In te reo Maaori, Kukutaaruhe translates as kuku (native pigeon), and taruhe (flight), referring to the flocks of native pigeons that once flew in this area. The mission of the projects is simple: improve the biodiversity in the Kukutaaruhe Gully and see the abundant return of wildlife and native birds such as the Kereruu.

The Dio Science Department runs the Year 9 ecology unit which involves students assessing the health of their gully, tracking predators, planting trees and creating plans for restoration. Ultimately we want students to take ownership of the area they planted and be actively involved in its upkeep during their five years at Dio – and hopefully even beyond.

Pastoral and Wellbeing

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

He waka eke noa

A canoe which we are all in with no exception

At Dio, we believe that positive relationships are the key to a happy school. When people are happy, they learn well and enjoy the things they are doing. Good relationships are based on respect, fairness, honesty and open communication. Sometimes, however, things don't always go as we would like and problems occur between people. More often than not, these problems start off as little problems and if they are not dealt with they tend to become big problems.

Restorative Practice is central to Dio's philosophy and is based on the development of respectful relationships and the awareness of how our behaviour affects others.

The core of Restorative Practice is the coming together of all people involved in the problem to discuss a way forward. Problems within school and between people occur at different levels of seriousness and this means that one type of restorative discussion does not fit all situations.

The different types of restorative discussions that take place at school will depend on the level of the problem.

All classroom teachers at Dio base their practice in the classroom around the principles of respectful relationships. However, if a student breaches any of the rules or expectations set out in the School Handbook/Student Diary they can still expect possible consequences for their actions.

At Waikato Diocesan every teacher has the right to set classroom expectations and every student has the right to learn in a friendly and respectful environment.

It is the student's responsibility to:

- Be in class on time and pack up on the teacher's signal.
- Come to class prepared; bring the correct equipment, work to deadlines and complete homework.
- Listen respectfully to the teacher and other students.
- Follow instructions the first time given and ask appropriate questions if you don't understand.
- Wear the correct uniform.
- Respect others and the classroom environment.
- Encourage and support each other.
- Use class time wisely to enhance each others' learning.
- Look for opportunities to extend yourself.
- Be willing to contribute.
- Be willing to work with a range of people.
- Use initiative in your learning.



PEER SUPPORT

Starting secondary school can be scary – new teachers, new friends, new rules, new buildings, new timetables, and for our boarders – a new home. It is our aim that your rangatahi transition to our kura and Dio family is as smooth as possible. Peer Support Leaders are selected from Year 12 students to guide groups of Year 9 students through their first year of Dio schooling. This kicks off at Year 9 Orientation where students get to take part in some ice-breaker activities to help them settle in and make new friends and learn about life at Dio. The leaders also provide a peer medication service for the students.

WELLNESS CENTRE

School Nurse, Doctor, Physio

Our school counsellors and nurse are located in the Vicky McLennan Wellness Centre and are available during the school day five days a week. An onsite physiotherapist from Align Health is available to book on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



Outdoor Education

At Dio, we aim to develop balanced young women who are empowered to meet their full potential and we provide a wide variety of learning experiences to achieve this.

Our outdoor education camps provide the opportunity for students to push themselves beyond their comfort zones in a controlled environment. Together they learn to manage risk responsibly, while challenging themselves physically. In doing so their confidence and self esteem is enhanced and their relationships with their peers are strengthened. Teamwork, group interaction and basic outdoor skills are woven into the programmes.

We believe that the environment, the culture and the history of the places we visit are essential to our sense of identity as New Zealanders and our place as citizens and custodians of the land. This is a theme that is woven throughout our camp programme from Year 9 to Year 13.

To ensure that the experiences are challenging but safety is paramount the school uses specialist and experienced outdoor education providers with a low student / instructor ratio to lead the students on all activities and manage the camps. A number of our staff accompany the students for pastoral support and to provide assistance with some of the camp activities. We also consult and work with guidelines worked out by the Mountain Safety Council and other independent organisations.



Our Team

Dio staff are a team of dynamic and talented individuals who believe in making the Dio Difference.

Our Proprietor's Board and School Board have set us a vision to: *'Prepare confident, resourceful and resilient young women to make a positive difference in their world. To achieve excellence in education within a caring family atmosphere under the influence of the standards and practices of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia.'*

The students at our school are the rangatira/leaders of the future. Our challenge, as staff, is to equip our young women with knowledge, skills, values and resilience so that they can navigate the challenges of their generation.

We have high expectations where every member of staff has a vital part to play in ensuring that the needs of our students are fully met and they are supported to achieve their personal best.

Staff are committed to personal excellence with a strong emphasis on pastoral care. As a result, Dio has a record of outstanding academic success as well as high achievement in sports and the arts.

The foundations of all that we do at Dio is the Anglican faith. One of the ways that we support this is through our understanding and putting into action of our Dio values of Courage, Respect, Empathy, Diligence, Integrity, Tolerance:

Kia maataatoa – to be courageous

Kia ngaakau whakaute – to uphold respect

Kia ngaakau aroha – to show empathy

Kia pukumahi – to demonstrate diligence

Kia ngaakau pono – to have integrity

Kia ngaakau mahaki – to show tolerance

Over the five years that our students spend with us, we explore our themes through the context of these values, which underpin everything that we do.



We welcome your application

Applications for Year 9 boarding and day student places close on the last day of April each year. Interviews are conducted and places confirmed by the end of Term Two.

Students will be selected in accordance with the Private Schools' Conditional Integration Act 1975 and the preference clause in the Integration Agreement.

All applications for admission for both boarding and day school places will be considered as per the preference priorities listed on our school website.

NON-PREFERENCE

Any student who does not fall into one or more of the categories above will be considered as non-preference. These students will be accepted only if enrolment places remain after all preference applicants have been enrolled. The maximum number of places available for non-preference students will be governed by the maximum allowable under the Waikato Diocesan Integration Agreement.

WAITING LIST PROCEDURE

All unsuccessful applicant may choose to have their names placed on a waiting list. Students on the waiting list may be offered places at a later date if they become available.

The waiting list will remain current until the beginning of the next enrolment intake.

**Apply online now at
www.waikatodiocesan.school.nz.**

Remember to have important documents on hand so you can upload them to your application.

If you have any questions concerning your application, please email admissions@wdsg.school.nz



**To find out more about the many wonderful opportunities available at Dio, check out
www.waikatodiocesan.school.nz**

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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Private Bag 3051, Hamilton, 3240

Phone 07 855 2038
admissions@wdsg.school.nz

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Timeline

In the year prior to your anticipated date of entry the following timeline applies:

- **March**
Open Day.
- **Last day of April**
All Year 9 applications close.
- **May**
Latest information is gathered from the applicant's school and from your nominated church. This information helps us establish preference status.
- **April through June**
Interviews are held for Year 9 positions. We interview those who we have established as having the highest preference first. There is no guarantee that every applicant will be interviewed.
- **End of Term 2**
Offers of Place are emailed.
- **Term 4**
August: Deadline for acceptance of place for Year 9 positions.
November: Placement testing occurs for accepted Year 9 students for the following year.
Throughout Term 4: Applications for other year groups are processed as we are notified of any places becoming available in the following year.

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