

## Education records - pupils

### Education Boards

The Education Act 1877 established a free, secular, compulsory education system throughout New Zealand. Coming into operation on 1 January 1878, the Act established the Department of Education and twelve Education Boards which replaced the former provincial system.

The Auckland Education Board covered the area from North Cape to Taumarunui. In 1952 regulations were gazetted establishing the South Auckland Education Board, with responsibility for the original Auckland Education Board's area south of Auckland. In 1982 the Education Amendment Act renamed that board the Hamilton Education Board. The Education Boards were abolished under the provisions of the Education Act 1989.

We hold two types of school pupil listings from the Auckland Education Board and its successors:

- **registers of admission, progress and withdrawal** – these were kept by each school. Some registers have been transferred to us directly by individual schools, while others have been transferred by the Education Boards and their successors
- **attendance returns / class lists** - collected by the Education Board's school inspectors, and kept by the Board.

Note: Admission registers, class lists or attendance returns cannot be photocopied for conservation reasons. Researchers are welcome to bring a camera or tablet/ipad to photograph records they view.

### Education Board schools admission registers

Information given in the registers includes:

- the child's full name
- date of admission
- date of birth
- name and address of parent or guardian, who is normally the person registering the child (the address is often a town or locality only)
- previous school (if any)
- standard achieved and dates
- last day of attendance
- destination (e.g. next school, work etc).

Not all columns in the registers were fully completed.

To confirm whether we hold registers for a particular school, use the [Archway advanced search - series](#) option and enter the name of the school as a keyword (ie – Parnell School).

Alternatively, a simple search in Archway using the name of the school as a keyword will bring up all records with those words in its title. Individual pupils are not entered on Archway.

### Auckland Education Board class lists - [Series 4135](#)

These volumes contain examination schedules listing, *by school and then class*, the pupils eligible for examination. Information given includes *each child's age in years and months, the last standard passed, results in each subject and any remarks*.

The schedules are arranged more or less alphabetically by the name of the school. The lists are grouped by year according to when they were received by the Education Board, which is not always the same as the year to which they refer. The pupils were listed by class, often boys and girls were listed separately.

The records have been listed in Archway by name of school and include primary, intermediate, area and district high schools. The majority of class lists are for primary schools. Licensed private schools were included from 1903.

A simple search by name of school will pick up records with those words in its title. Alternately use the [Archway advanced search - records](#) option. Enter the name of the school in keywords and enter 4135 in series.

Many of the volumes are fragile and must be handled carefully. ***The class lists in series 4135 covering 1879-1918 have been digitised and are available for viewing online via Archway.*** These records will no longer be issued in the reading room.

### **Education Department records of Maori schools**

The Native Schools Act of 1867 enabled the setting up of separate Maori schools run by the Department of Native Affairs. In 1879 control of these schools passed to the Department of Education. It was never the case that all Maori children attended only Maori schools, nor that all children at Maori schools were Maori. In 1955 a process of transferring Maori schools to the Education Boards began, and by 1969 this process was completed. Some records were inherited by the Boards while others were deposited at the Department of Education Northern Regional Office, and later transferred here. While we do not hold all Maori school records, we do hold records of Maori schools from all parts of New Zealand.

To confirm whether we hold records for a particular Maori school, search online in Archway, using the simple search and enter the name of the school. Also see our leaflet *Location Guide to Maori Schools* available in the reading room.

### **Maori schools admission registers**

Information in these registers is similar to that provided in the Education Board schools registers. Names were sometimes anglicised, and first and last names were occasionally reversed. Most of them are found in the series [BAAA 1004](#). To confirm whether we hold registers for a particular Maori school, search online in Archway, using the simple search and enter the name of the school.

Alternately use the [Archway advanced search - records](#) option. Enter the name of the school in keywords and enter 1004 in series.

### **Maori schools attendance returns**

These attendance returns are part of the multiple numbered subject files in series [BAAA 1001](#). The returns list the pupils and the number of days they attended the school covering the dates 1926-1951. From 1952 the returns were only statistical (with very few exceptions) and the children's names were not given. Up to 1946 an Archway search for the name of the school, and the word "attendance" will confirm if these are held for a particular school, after that date the files are arranged by date only. There are some files of classification returns for 1949-1955, where the children's names are given, with age and standard reached: [BAAA 1001/138a](#), [BAAA 1001/138b](#), [BAAA 1001/138c](#), [BAAA 1001/139a](#), [BAAA 1001/139b](#), [BAAA 1001/139c](#)

Earlier surviving attendance returns were filed on the "Buildings and Sites" files also in series [BAAA 1001](#). These files are listed under that heading, alphabetically by the name of the school. The earlier attendance returns from the Buildings and Sites files have been indexed by name, and included in a pupils' card index in the reading room.

### **Additional finding aids - card indexes of pupils available in the Auckland reading room**

Auckland Education Board class lists have been indexed from 1879 to 1894. Although this is an index of names, the cards are arranged under each school.

There is also a nominal index of school pupils, which includes the attendance returns found in early Maori schools Building and Sites files (see above), as well as various class lists and admission registers.

### **Further reading**

*End of an Era, New Zealand Education Boards* - John Nimmo (ed), New Zealand Education Boards Association Inc, Wellington 1989

*Glorious Enterprise, The History of the Auckland Education Board 1857-1957* - Ian Cumming, Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd, 1959

*Nga Kura Maori, the Native School System 1867-1969* - Judith Simon (ed), Auckland University Press, 1989

*Maori Schools in a Changing Society* - JM Barrington, TH Beaglehole, New Zealand Council for Education Research, 1978

*Separate but equal? Maori schools and the Crown 1867-1969*  
John Barrington, Victoria University Press, 2008

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