

Ōpunake Primary School named Apple Distinguished School

Ōpunake Primary School is pleased to announce that we have been recognised as an Apple distinguished School For 2022-2025 for its innovative use of Apple Technology to enhance learning opportunities and creativity for students.

Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of innovation, leadership, and educational excellence. They use Apple technology to inspire creativity, collaboration and critical thinking in learning, teaching and the school environment, and have documented results on the progress, achievement, and engagement of learners.

“Kō te manu e ka i ana i to m i rō n ō n ā te ngahere. Kō te manu e ka i ana”

“At Ōpunake Primary “Educate to innovate” is our school whakakitenga (vision). When we commenced our Apple Journey, this whakatauk i immediately resonated with what we were challenging ourselves to achieve, for our teachers and students. Our students understand how to use various technologies and it is life changing for our ak ō nga (learners) to be empowered and challenged to utilise these technologies to positively impact their future. Learning digital fluency skills and dispositions, whether they aspire to be an artist, farmer, architect, designer, animator etc will be a prerequisite for their future impact and success. We view, “digital fluency as the ability to leverage technology to create new knowledge, new products, as well as new challenges and problems. By complementing these with critical thinking, complex problem solving, and social intelligence skills we arm ā konga to solve new and complex challenges.” Our Apple Journey supported our vision, and our teachers are continually reflecting and honing

their pedagogy. This continues to drive our vision, and creates a dynamic learning environment in our school.

Ōpunake Primary uses digital fluency (Apple ecosystem) to motivate and engage students in their learning. Fullan states that, “Education needs to be radically rethought partly to stop boredom, but mostly to blow the lid off learning”. Our journey with Apple has supported us to “blow the lid off learning”. Our teachers are continually challenging the educational status quo, and their personal status quo to make learning and teaching more dynamic and, “more alluring for our students” (Fullan). This is not witnessed or measured in a graph or in an assessment spreadsheet, but rather through the vibrancy in the classroom, teachers sharing and using innovative pedagogy, collaborative practice, authentic learning and students mahi, which is all observable in daily practice at our school .

The selection of Ōpunake Primary School as an Apple Distinguished School highlights our success as an innovative and creative learning environment that engages students and provides tangible evidence of their accomplishment.

We provide an inclusive and innovative curriculum that has a sound foundation in literacy and mathematics, and includes the full breadth of the curriculum including the arts and STEM subjects, in an integrated context. Technology is integrated effectively in highly engaging ways to enhance all facets of learning . Our eLearning environment is extremely well resourced to support this authentic and effective integration of technology across the school.

A key aim is to expand the worldview of our students. Students are encouraged to unearth and follow their personal strengths, passions and talents. We support them to understand that learning is not limited to who you know and where you live By helping them access experts and information not readily available to them locally

Nothing is permanent, only the change is constant. With this in mind we want Ō punake Primary students being supported to succeed in this reality by learning to be competent and creative users of emerging technologies, and to be confident learners, creators and problem solvers in a challenging and changing world.

Lorraine Williamson

Principal

