



# Learning Support Services

Thank you for your interest in Learning Support Services at Te Puna Wai o Waipapa - Hagley College.

We are fortunate to have a team of dedicated teacher aides and specialist learning support teachers who work with students of all ages throughout the college. There are a range of ways that we support our learners, depending on their age and individual needs.

## Targeted Learning

This is a specialist class for students who need significant curriculum/programme adaptation, due to their learning needs. These students may be ORS verified, though this is not a requirement for entry to the class. Class numbers are restricted to 18 students, who have a specialist classroom teacher and two teacher aides. Students can remain enrolled in Targeted Learning for a maximum of four years (usually until Year 11 or Year 12).

The class aims to support literacy and numeracy development, as well as social/emotional needs. Students have access to a full learning programme, which is offered in a supportive environment and adapted curriculum level.

Entry to Targeted Learning is offered to new Year 9 students only and is strictly conditional on available space in the class. Parents/caregivers who wish for their child to be considered for Targeted Learning should indicate this during enrolment.

## Teacher Aides

Most of our classes in the Junior College have access to teacher aide support, often for the whole school day. We take this approach so that accessing help in class is easy and available to everyone. Our teacher aides also support specific senior classes and work with eligible senior students who are entitled to use Special Assessment Conditions (SAC), such as providing reader/writer support.

## Specialist Teachers

Learning Support Services includes a team of specialist teachers who co-ordinate support plans and interventions in our junior classes, as well as provide direct support to eligible senior students. This involves regularly scheduled meetings with the student to monitor learning progress and co-ordinate any arising support needs. We work closely with classroom teachers, support agencies, students, and their families.

# Frequently Asked Questions

Please see the following questions that we are asked most often.

## **1. Who do Learning Support Services work with?**

We work with students who need significant classroom adaptation or support, due to their learning differences or needs. We co-ordinate support plans with families, teachers, and agencies to support our students. We also work with classroom teachers to provide ongoing learning intervention support and guidance.

## **2. Does my child need to have a diagnosed learning need for you to work with them? (If so, can you help with that?)**

Students do not need a formal learning diagnosis to work with Learning Support Services, but this is often a helpful starting point. We offer testing services to our students, to help determine if there are areas needing further support or intervention, however this is not a complete diagnostic process and we do not provide a formal report. If families are concerned about their child's learning, but have not obtained a formal assessment, this should be indicated upon enrolment.

## **3. My child needs ongoing behaviour support, due to their neurodiversity. What can you do to help with that?**

This will need to be discussed during enrolment. We offer an inclusive learning environment and a flexible support model, which we expect our students and their families to actively engage with. This includes our restorative approach at school and any behaviour support plans. Violent or abusive behaviour is not tolerated under any circumstances.

## **4. My child is very anxious about starting high school. Can you support them with this transition?**

We offer extra transition support to students who need support with starting high school. Once students join our school, all learners will also have access to our team of counsellors and wellbeing specialists who offer mental health support, including support for school-based anxiety or other wellbeing support.

**5. How will teachers know about my child's learning needs? (How will they help?)**

Each class in our Junior College has an overall class learning plan, written by Learning Support Services. This is shared at the beginning of the year with the class teachers and teacher aide. Every student in a junior class is part of the learning plan, which includes relevant classroom strategies that will support individual learning and development. Learning Support Services also meet regularly with classroom teachers, Year Advisors, and tutor teachers to monitor student progress. Students with significant learning needs will have a more detailed IEP (Individual Education Plan).

**6. My child needs a teacher aide, or one-on-one support. Are you able to provide this?**

Most of our junior classes have a teacher aide allocated to them for in-class support. Students who are entitled to their own specific teacher aide support via the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) or via Resource Teacher Funding, will have access to this via Learning Support Services. Families are asked to include information about any support entitlements in their child's application to enrol at the college.

**7. I have a unique situation, which I need to discuss with you. Who can I speak with before I submit an application?**

Please call our Enrolment Centre for any inquiries about enrolment.

Parents/caregivers are asked to submit all learning information you wish us to be aware of during enrolment. We will be in touch if there are any questions about the information submitted, or if any further information is required. Learning Support Services will be available to discuss individual learning needs once students have been offered a place at the college.