

School Profile



John Paul II High School is a decile 6, integrated, co-educational, Year 9–13, Roman Catholic secondary school located in Greymouth, and nestled between the Southern Alps and the Tasman Sea. Established in 1980, the school was founded from the amalgamation of two schools, St Mary’s High School, operated by the Sisters of Mercy (who arrived in Greymouth in 1882) and Marist Brothers Boys’ School operated by the Marist Brothers (founded in 1892).

John Paul II High School offers families a comprehensive education in a school culture which nurtures and encourages individuals to achieve to their full potential in personal academic excellence, personal growth, and life in Faith in accordance with the values of Jesus Christ and Catholic tradition.

The crest of John Paul II High School represents the Papal emblem of St Peter’s Keys and the triangular unity of the Holy Trinity. Through their foresight and hard work, earlier generations of West Coast Catholics, the Marist Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy, established an excellent school in Greymouth for the Catholic young people of today. By any standards John Paul II High School is a strong school with excellent teaching programmes, small classes and energetic and professional staff. The roll, which is capped at 240, is approximately 172 students, of whom 22 identify as Māori. Other significant groups include 9 students who identify as Pasifika, and 19 as Asian.

The school’s catchment area is relatively large including the area from Hokitika to the south, northward to Barrytown on the coast and Ikamatua in the Grey Valley, and inland along State Highway 73 towards Arthur’s Pass. Most students travel on Ministry tendered bus routes. A significant number of our Year 9 students come from St. Mary’s Primary School in Hokitika and St. Patrick’s Primary School, Greymouth with whom we share a Board of Trustees and a campus. The high school also has a close association with the adjoining Tai Poutini Polytechnic with many students attending its Gateway and Trades courses. The school is part of the Māwhera Kāhui Ako Community of Learning.

Our school buildings consist of an administration block, three science laboratories, new maths, computing and food technology rooms; a technology workshop, rooms for art and music, a well-equipped library that we co-share with St. Patricks, a sole purpose hall and a large gymnasium (recently purchased from Grey District Council). We have access to community facilities for swimming, netball, tennis and rugby as required. We are a BYOD school and Wi-Fi access is available in every teaching space in the school. Owing to our small size and staffing, or timetable, restrictions, many students are enrolled in Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu, or other distance learning courses to accommodate their learning needs. We have a staff member employed to oversee the students studying online.



We have strong links with other schools in the South Island and accept a wide range of sporting and cultural challenges by participating in the top of the South Island's school tournaments, which flow onto the national schools' tournaments. In particular, we participate in the Bishop Lyon's Public Speaking Competition, the Russell McVeagh secondary schools' debating tournament, the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival, the Caritas Challenge and the South Island Science fairs. We also have a number of Māori students enrolled in our local Tui te Tai Poutini rangatahi leadership wananga and we participate in the regional Kapa Haka competition. These annual events are eagerly looked forward to by all our senior students.

In recent times, our students have won Scholarships in Art and Biology and been selected for national mentoring programmes such as the Pinnacle Programme. Our Yr 13 students have also been successful in being awarded scholarships for tertiary study; in 2020 alone the scholarships awarded totalled over \$65,000. This year a Yr 12 student has been chosen as a finalist in a prestigious art competition and his work will appear as part of the upcoming Waikato Society of Arts National Youth Art Awards. Furthermore, a Yr 11 student has won District Cadet of the Year with St John, and another Yr 11 student was placed 3rd overall in the annual Otago University Senior Science Quiz. Our students are eager for challenges, whatever form they may take.

Our school takes advantage of the amazing opportunities available locally for outdoor education. We also run camps, tramps, ski trips and outdoor activities. Interested students can take part in the Duke of Edinburgh award. The school owns an 11-seater minibus and has mountain bikes for students' use in biking activities. We cooperate closely with our local primary schools in the areas of technology, sport and cultural events. We participate in a Reciprocal Reading programme and the Kids' Lit quiz with St Patrick's and their students come to us for Food Technology and Science. Likewise, we offer Science classes for Cobden and Kumara Primary Schools.



The school's timetable is run over 10 days and divided into week one and two. The students are divided into five house and ten whānau groups. Each whānau teacher is responsible for the pastoral needs of each student in his/her group. The size of the school enables each teacher to know every child and as a result we have relatively few serious behavioural issues, and few, if any, stand downs. We are a PB4L school and resolve disputes using a restorative approach.

Our junior and senior deans provide another layer of support, and we have a Guidance Counsellor employed on a regular part time basis. In addition, we have a dedicated staff prepared to go above and beyond to enable and assist our students to meet their learning goals. All students in Level 1 gain NCEA Level 1. Few, if any, of our students do not achieve Level 2 and 3. The overall academic achievement for the past three years places our school's levels of achievement above the national average and above others of a similar decile rating. In our last ERO report, the reviewers on site said: *"Leaders and teachers have maintained a strongly collaborative approach to the pastoral care and academic achievement of students. This is helping to foster students' spiritual and emotional wellbeing in order to support positive achievement outcomes."*

We have an active staff development programme which works in conjunction with the Appraisal System to encourage and challenge teachers to continue their professional development. In short, we have a dedicated staff, great students and supportive parents. This opportunity is perfect for someone who has the confidence and mana to make our awesome little school even better, and will reward someone who has the vision, energy and commitment to make that happen.

