



# Welcome

*Welcome to Avonside Girls' High School, the largest girls' secondary school in the South Island of New Zealand.*

*The school of nearly 1300 students is situated on the banks of Christchurch's Avon River, just 2.6 km from the city centre. Students from a range of nationalities and backgrounds come together to learn in the refurbished historic buildings and attractive grounds.*

*Avonside Girls' High School welcomes international students warmly, believing that all students benefit from being able to get to know and work alongside students from different cultures.*

*There are wonderful opportunities for Avonside girls. There is a strong focus on academic achievement and an emphasis on students taking responsibility for learning, with the guidance and support of their teachers. All students are encouraged to be the best that they can be and all students are expected to participate fully in school life.*

*The all-girl learning environment is empowering for students. All the speakers, players, captains, writers, singers, musicians, athletes and leaders at Avonside are girls. Every class leader is a girl and every student leadership role is taken by a girl! We are proud of the mature and well-rounded students who graduate from our school at the end of their secondary schooling.*

*We invite you to join our Avonside family and experience the range of opportunities within and beyond the classroom, and the friendly and caring atmosphere, which is valued by both students and staff.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Sue Hume  
Principal*



## **Mission Statement**

To educate and empower students to become confident, connected, actively involved learners.

## **Vision**

To aim for our students to succeed through developing their talents and realising their goals, to be fully contributing members of our school and our multi-cultural society and to develop the confidence and resilience needed to continue learning throughout their lives

## **Guiding Principles**

We value personal achievement, pride in self and school, social competence, a high quality environment and a breadth of opportunities for everyone.



*CODE: Avonside Girls' High School has agreed to observe and be bound by the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students published by the Minister of Education. Copies of the Code are available on request from this institution or from the New Zealand Ministry of Education website at <http://www.minedu.govt.nz>*

# Avonside Girls' High School, Christchurch, New Zealand – A Great Place to Study

The school is 5 minutes by bus from the centre of the city in the east of Christchurch and beside the River Avon.

In January 1919, two classes of Christchurch Girls' students started high school in the old house on three and a half acres at Avonside. By 1928, Avonside Girls' High School was a separate school and 1930 saw the first sixth form (Year 12) class.

The first Principal was a teacher of French and had studied at the Sorbonne. She set high standards and many early University scholarships marked the beginning of the school's fine academic tradition.

A tradition of sporting excellence and innovation began early too. Tennis, swimming, life-saving, cricket and tramping were popular sports from the beginning.

Avonside today is an innovative modern school within a traditional framework. Our history provides a sound framework for an exciting future. 2008 was the 80th Jubilee of Avonside and it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the successful education of thousands of young women from all around the world.

The school now has a roll of about 1250 girls in Years 9-13 which enables us to have a wide choice of subjects and activities for all students

The 2009 Educational Review commented on:

*"the well-organised strong pastoral care system which monitors and supports students' well-being and achievement."*

*"Students learn in a positive, friendly and supportive learning environment."*



## Avonside Girls' High School

CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

*A beautiful school*

*A beautiful city*

*A beautiful country*



## Where are we?

- New Zealand is a clean, green land of clear blue skies and thousands of stars by night.
- Mountains and beaches, rivers and lakes, rich farmlands and forests combine to give beautiful, varied landscapes.
- Christchurch is a modern city offering excellent cultural, sporting and shopping facilities. Our telecommunications, banking and medical systems are among the most modern in the world.
- Christchurch, a city of about 400,000 people is on the Canterbury Plains on the east of the South Island with an international airport.
- To the east are beaches for swimming, sailing and other water sports.
- Inland, the magnificent Southern Alps with their unsurpassed scenery and fine ski fields are only 11/2 hours drive away.
- Christchurch has a temperate climate with warm summers and cool winters.
- The city has a strong cultural life, with professional theatre and orchestra, art galleries and museums.
- Many ethnic groups proudly keep their cultures alive in a new environment.

Our tertiary institutions include University of Canterbury, Lincoln University and the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology.





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# Avonside Welcomes International Students

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International students have wonderful opportunities! We welcome you.

They experience a different education system and have the chance to make lifelong friends from around the world. There will be challenges to meet but there will also be many rewards.

We have a long tradition of accepting students from many parts of the world and they have been happy and successful here.

Avonside will ensure that international students are well cared for. Special services are available to help with problems and also to plan for the future.

We enjoy our association with international students and know that there is much to be gained in terms of learning and understanding when people of different nations live and work together.

We have high academic expectations of our students and those achievements are a source of pride to us.

*Thai Student: There are so many opportunities. I am on the Student Executive and have important leadership roles. I have joined many vocal and instrumental groups. The more you do, the more you will get.*

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# Support for International Students

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The Director and the Assistant Director of International Students are responsible for the student's admission, academic work and general welfare at school.

All enrolments, matters of personal care and enquiries should be directed to the Director of International Students.

The Homestay Coordinator and Administrative Assistant will arrange the student's accommodation; meet her at the airport; introduce her to her homestay family; help with uniform; insurance and supervise her general welfare while she is in New Zealand.

The Department conducts an Orientation Programme when a student enrolls. This will assist the student to settle in their new school.

# Orientation

A detailed Orientation Booklet is given to all new International Students to help them with the New Zealand education system.

Students should be in New Zealand and able to attend Orientation which is held in late January and at the beginning of Term 3.

Students will be given a map of the school and a tour. They will be given information to help them fit into AGHS.

Students have a chance to meet each other; are shown around the facilities; helped to see what activities are available; and their academic programmes are finalised.

## Deans and Head of Level

There is a Dean and Head of Level in charge of each year group. They are responsible for the discipline and welfare of our students.

# Homestay

Avonside offers an excellent homestay service.

The homestay co-ordinator will:

- pick up each girl at the airport;
- arrange accommodation for her with carefully selected families. These families will treat the student with kindness and help her with her English and to learn about a new culture;
- make sure each girl has her own room and is given three meals a day;
- help with uniform, and setting up a bank account;
- look after the student's welfare while she is in New Zealand;
- The student is expected to join in the family's activities and to follow its rules.
- the coordinator will meet with each girl at least once a term and contact the homestay or visit at least once a term.
- The Ministry of Education Code of Practice specifies that students must live either in a homestay, with a designated carer or with parents. (Avonside does not have a boarding establishment). Avonside students may not live in a flat. Our experience shows that when students are not in homestay care they have problems with tiredness, health and attendance and their academic achievement suffers.

## Homestay Rules

- 1 A student must show respect for her host family and act as a member of the family. She is expected to help with light household duties.
- 2 Household rules for meals, use of telephone, Internet etc must be respected.
- 3 If a student is going out she must tell the homestay parent where she will be. She must be home at a reasonable time that is agreed to by the homestay parent.
- 4 A student is expected to be home for dinner each night when she has school the next day.

The school will make every effort to ensure that the student is happy in her homestay family. If problems arise the student should discuss these with the Homestay Co-ordinator. She must not change her homestay without the permission and approval of the Co-ordinator.

A holding fee of \$25 per week or \$3.60 per day is paid to the homestay if the students goes home over the summer holiday and wishes to leave property at the home-stay.





## Homestay Payments

Students pay the homestay fee to the school for the whole year in advance. The current fee covers accommodation, including three meals a day.

Holidays: If a student goes to her home country or on an approved holiday in New Zealand, the following payments are made for homestay:

- one week or less - the student pays full homestay fee
- more than one week - the student pays \$50 per week or \$7.20 per day
- holiday with homestay family - the student pays full homestay fee.

The student pays for telephone calls and internet use. Any damage not covered by the family's insurance is paid for by the student.



## Designated Caregivers

The Ministry of Education Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students allows parents to designate a caregiver, who must be a relative or long established close friend of the family with whom the child may stay.

If this option is chosen:

- parents must take full responsibility for the ongoing care and placement of the student.
- parents must sign an indemnity document which will be provided at the time of the enrolment.
- parents must name the designated caregiver and provide all information required by the school.

The Code requires that the school visit and assess the home of the designated caregiver. The homestay coordinator will visit the home at least twice a year and meet with the girl at least once a term. Police vetting will be required. If the placement is not considered satisfactory enrolment may be refused, or the student may be moved to an approved homestay.

*German Student: I would like to mention the nice and helpful bunch of teachers, who will always listen to your problems and try to help. Going abroad for a whole year was a fantastic experience and certainly improved my English.*



## Reporting to Parents

The school will formally report to parents three times a year:

- at the end of Term 1 or beginning of Term 2
- late in Term 2 or early in Term 3
- late Term 3, after the school examinations or at the end of year for Years 9 and 10

Serious concerns will be communicated to parents at any stage should this become necessary. Parents may contact the school for information at any time.



# Health & Travel Insurance

International students are not entitled to publicly funded health services while in New Zealand.

Students must have appropriate and current medical and travel insurance arranged before they enrol.

The insurance policy should:

- commence the minute the student leaves home for the airport on their way to New Zealand
- apply while in transit
- apply while the student is in New Zealand
- cover the student for any trips to other countries during the period of study
- cover the student for any holidays back to their home country during the period of study
- cover emergency and evacuation/repatriation
- include accompanying relative cover
- cover personal effects
- include personal liability cover
- cover the loss of fees due to emergencies

Avonside can arrange health and travel insurance for the student when the offer of place is given.

Students must provide proof of insurance prior to confirmation of enrolment.

Details of publicly-funded health services are available at : <http://www.moh.govt.nz> and <http://www.acc.co.nz>



# English for International Students

Students whose English levels are too low to cope with full English classes are placed in ESOL programmes according to their level of English.

A student is expected to work hard and only be in these classes for a maximum of 1 year before joining an English class.

There are NCEA assessments in ESOL classes, but New Zealand and some countries do not recognise these to meet University Entrance requirements.

Specialist subject teachers are available to provide subject support, especially for senior students in a number of subjects.

ESOL classes are smaller and help students with important skills and assignment preparation.

Avonside does not have beginner ESOL classes and some students may need an intensive English course at a Language school before enrolment. Avonside can help arrange this.

All ESOL staff are experienced and qualified to assist the student to improve their English.

Students must work hard to speak and read English all day and read and speak extra each day at their home.





# Courses of Study

International students find big differences between education in New Zealand and their home countries. Students may not have so many subjects to study but they are required to do more research and assignment work, which requires independent learning.

The International Staff will discuss each girl's course carefully with her. The school reserves the right to change a student's course to suit the student and the school timetable.

## The Junior School

In both Years 9 and 10, students remain together in one class for their core subjects and mix with different students in their options.

### Years 9 and 10

All students study English, mathematics, physical education, science, social studies and health. All Year 9 and 10 students choose option courses, (see the curriculum chart). All Year 10 students take part in an outdoor education camp.

## The Senior School

A multi-level timetable operates in the senior school. Years 11, 12 and 13 senior students remain together only in their form class. Their fellow students change with each different subject they take.

### Year 11

All students take courses in English, mathematics, and science. They choose three other subjects.

There are compulsory courses in health, careers and financial literacy.

All Year 11 students will be working towards the National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 1.

Students must obtain 8 credits in both Mathematics and English and a total of 80 credits in all of their subjects to gain NCEA Level 1. English credits may be obtained in E.S.O.L.

### Year 12

All students should take an English course and a mathematics course and four other subjects. There are compulsory courses in health, careers and financial literacy.

All Year 12 students will be working towards the National Certificate of Educational Achievement.

20 credits from NCEA Level 1 can be counted towards the Level 2 certificate.

### Year 13

There are no compulsory subjects at this level. Students study five subjects. All Year 13 students will be working towards the National Certificate of Educational Achievement.

To obtain a Level 3 certificate a student must obtain 80 credits. 20 credits may be included from Level 2.

To obtain the minimum for University Entrance a student must achieve:

- 14 credits at Level 3 in each of 2 subjects
- a further 14 credits at Level 3 in 2 other subjects
- 14 credits in Mathematics at Level 1 or above
- 4 credits in reading in English at Level 2 or above
- 4 credits in written English at Level 2 or above.

Entrance Qualifications for universities in other countries may differ. These new qualifications make it almost impossible to study for only one year and gain University Entrance in New Zealand. Students should study both Year 12 and Year 13 over two years.

At the back of this prospectus is a curriculum chart detailing the subjects that may be studied at each level.

# Subjects Offered at Avonside

The curriculum chart shows there is a wide choice of subjects available. International students may choose any subject, but must recognise that class sizes and date of enrolment may mean that not all choices may be available on enrolment. Some are listed below.

## Art

To study Art subjects in Year 13 it is necessary to have studied Visual Art previously. Painting and Printmaking, Photography and Design are offered.

## Accounting

Accounting is the language of money and business, and requires good mathematical ability. Year 13 students need to have studied Accounting previously.

## Economics

Students are given an understanding of the economic issues of modern societies. To study Economics at Year 13, it is useful to have studied it previously and to be good at English and Mathematics.

## Computing

Courses are run in Systems Technology and Information Management.

## English and ESOL

Students can choose from English courses to suit their level of English.

## Geography

Geography is about people and the way in which they live, both in New Zealand and the wider world. Fieldwork and practical work are an important part of Geography.

## Graphics

Students will learn the principles of design and apply these to practical situations and problems. Previous study of design, drawing and graphic presentation is recommended at the senior level. Students will be required to use computers.

## History

History examines the human forces which have shaped our modern world, and New Zealand's development and its relationships with other countries. A good level of English is necessary.

## Technology

Technology courses are available in: Hard Materials, Home Economics and Food Technology, Human Development, Applied Design in Textiles, Textiles and Clothing

## Languages

FRENCH, GERMAN, JAPANESE, MAORI, SPANISH, LATIN are usually available.

The important skills of reading, speaking, writing and listening are taught; the emphasis is on communicating.

Spanish may be started in Year 11. Other languages in the senior school will require prior learning, and sometimes it is possible to start learning a language by joining a junior class.

## Mathematics

Mathematics is compulsory in Years 9, 10, 11 and recommended in Year 12 where algebra, geometry and trigonometry, measurement, number and statistics are studied. Courses emphasize problem-solving, logical reasoning and the ability to communicate mathematical ideas. In Year 13 Mathematics With Calculus and Statistics and Modelling are available.

## Music

Comprehensive music courses focus on individual and group performance (vocal/instrumental), composition, music knowledge (theory, research, analysis of a range of styles of music), and aural skills.

Students are expected to learn an instrument and to contribute to the extra-curricular music in the school.





## Physical Education and Physical Education –Leadership Training

The focus is on a physically active and healthy lifestyle. The courses cover both theory and action and give opportunities for leadership training in outdoor education.

### The Sciences

Science Is compulsory in Years 9,10, 11 and includes Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

In the senior school Biology, Chemistry, and Physics may be studied as separate subjects. A strong background in Mathematics is recommended for all senior courses.

### Tourism Studies

This course introduces students to tourism in New Zealand and the world.

## Cultural Activities

Students are encouraged to develop their talents and explore their interests in a wide variety of cultural activities. They require a commitment each week. We like students to try something new.

These are usually available:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Chamber Music  | Chorale/ Choir                     |
| Dance  | Debating                           |
| Drama  | Jazz/ Rock Band                    |
| Orchestra  | Recorder Ensemble String Orchestra |
| Theatresports  | Kapahaka                           |
| Learning a musical instrument                            |                                    |
| Language Competitions in Japanese, Maori, French, German |                                    |

## Houses

Avonside has six Houses, each named after past Principals and every student is allocated to a House. The names of the Houses are: Gresson, Karsten, Stevenson, Samuel, Williams, Townsend

House competitions throughout the year provide an excellent opportunity to meet students in other classes and year groups, and to be part of the rich and colourful fabric of our community.

## Sport

Many activities are available as well as the regular interschool competitions. At the competitive level we regularly have individuals and teams achieving considerable success.

Not all sports are available all terms, and students who come in July, come in the middle of the winter sport season and it is not usually possible to join a team then for term 3. Summer sport is in Terms1 and 4; winter sport is terms 2 and 3.

The following sporting activities are usually available at school and others may be available:

- |                |            |               |
|----------------|------------|---------------|
| Aerobics       | Athletics  | Badminton     |
| Basketball     | Canoe Polo | Cross Country |
| Cricket        | Fencing    | Hockey        |
| Indoor Netball | Lifesaving | Netball       |
| Rowing         | Rugby      | Soccer        |
| Softball       | Squash     | Swimming      |
| Table Tennis   | Tennis     | Touch Rugby   |
| Volleyball     | Waterpolo  |               |

# Uniform

## School Dress

The Board of Trustees requires the Avonside students to be in full regulation uniform. We encourage girls to take a pride in their appearance and ask that parents support the school in seeing that their daughter maintains a neat, clean standard of dress. Only the stated uniform is permitted.

Stockists include:

SchoolTex Schoolwear - Postie Plus

DUS, 429 Colombo Street, Phone 366 3241

Ballantynes, City Mall, Phone 379 7400

Bambi Drapery, 711 Gloucester Street, Phone 389 9583

Mainland Uniforms, 511 Wairakei Road, Phone 360 3037

Kilt and summer uniform material are available from Bambi Drapery and Mainland Uniforms for home dressmakers.

## Summer Uniform

Dress: green check in regulation pattern and material

Jersey: red, v-necked

Socks: white, knee-length or ankle

Shoes: brown leather shoes or brown either lace-up or T-bar (no sandals or jandals). MoE regulations do not permit either open toe or backless footwear in laboratories or workshops.

Hats: students are permitted to wear a sun hat in the grounds during breaks.

## Winter Uniform

Kilt: Hunting McKinnon tartan, the hem is to be at least 20cm above the ground

Blouse: white, long-sleeved, polycotton or brushed cotton, with pointed collar either fitted or non-fitted

Tie: junior - dark green  
senior - red and green stripe (available from school office)

Jersey: red, v-necked

Tights: brown or dark green

or

Socks: white/fawn knee length

Scarf: green/brown or green/red stripes, or plain dark green, or plain dark red

Blazer: dark green

Jacket: dark green polar fleece jacket (available from the school office)

It is **compulsory** to have either a Blazer or Jacket as above

Raincoats: rainjacket (dark green with black trim) available from DUS.

## Physical Education

Shirt: white T shirt or polo shirt

Shorts: plain black

or

Tracksuit: pants - plain black or black with white stripe(s)

Shoes: non marking soled sports shoes

## General

1. Winter uniform must be worn in Terms 2 and 3.
2. Jewellery is not permitted other than a wrist watch and plain ear studs. Facial piercing, including the tongue, is not permitted.
3. Hair must be tidy. If worn long it must be tied back in all practical subjects. Hair colour must be within the natural range. Extreme hairstyles are not acceptable. Hair bands/ties must be red, green, white or brown.



# Rules for International Students



- 1 Students must abide by the laws of New Zealand and the rules of the school.
- 2 Students must be covered by approved Health and Travel Insurance.
- 3 Students must attend all classes and be punctual. If they are away through illness the homestay parent must contact the school on that day.
- 4 Students must show consideration for all staff and for other students. They must co-operate with teachers' instructions at all times.
- 5 A student may only use drugs prescribed by her doctor. The use of illegal drugs at any time or in any place will mean that the student is expelled from school, the Immigration Department informed and the student returned to her home country.
- 6 Smoking is forbidden at school, and to and from school or in uniform.
- 7 Alcohol is never to be consumed at school or brought to school or to school functions.

## 8 Driving

Because of a number of accidents to International students we strongly advise parents not to allow their daughters to buy cars while they are still at high school in New Zealand, nor lend money to another student to buy a car.

A student may not own or drive a car without a New Zealand Driver's Licence. She must have written permission from her parents and from the homestay parents and must abide by the requirements of New Zealand law. A student driving to school must have a permit from the school and must not drive passengers while on a restricted licence.

Further information on driving in New Zealand will be sent on enrolment if requested.

## 9 Travel

Under the terms of the Code of Practice the school is required to know the whereabouts of students at all times, including the holidays.

Students under 18 travelling outside Christchurch and overseas (except for travel between home and school) must have permission from their parents, homestay parents, and the school. This information must state where the student is going, with whom, and the dates she will be away. They must have permission from the International Staff or the Homestay Co-ordinator at least three weeks before going away on holiday and must give homestay families at least two weeks notice. Permission is not as of right.

These rules are designed to keep the student safe and to meet the Code requirements.

## Fees policy

- 1 The International Fee-Paying Student Policy and tuition fees will be reviewed by March each year by the Board of Trustees, with regard to the current enrolment scheme, projected maximum roll, available resources and priorities and government demands.
- 2 The maximum international fee-paying roll is 50.
- 3 Fees will cover:
  - all class tuition
  - text books, school magazine
  - Government charges

The fee does not include NCEA fees, stationery, uniform, photographs, special fees for courses eg, paints, fabrics etc, course trips, social activities, private music tuition, private language qualifications for TOEFL, IELTS etc.

- 4 For the student permit to remain valid tuition and homestay fees must be paid in advance annually.
- 5 Payment may be made to Avonside Girls' High School bank account. Details are given on the invoice which is issued with the Offer of Place.

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# How to Apply for Admission to Avonside Girls' High School

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## With this prospectus is included:

- An Application Form
- Information on Fees and other costs
- Term Dates
- Criteria for Admission
- Curriculum Chart
- School Rules
- Uniform Information

## Send:

- Completed application form
- Copies of reports and/or qualifications
- A character reference, preferably from the Principal of the student's school or a senior teacher who knows her well.
- A letter from the student in which she tells us about herself and why she wants to come to New Zealand.
- A photocopy of the student's birth Certificate or passport.

## To:

The Director of International Students  
Avonside Girls' High School  
180 Avonside Drive  
Christchurch 8061  
NEW ZEALAND  
Phone: 64-3-389 7199  
Fax: 64-3-389 9250  
Email: rjohnson@avonside.school.nz  
or international@avonside.school.nz

If the application is successful we will send an OFFER OF PLACE, invoice, tuition and homestay contracts, a copy of the refund policy, complaints policy, and insurance information.



All relevant documents must be completed, returned to the school and FEES PAID as soon as possible.



Avonside will send a RECEIPT, Homestay Information.



Attach the receipt to the Offer of Place and take or send it to the New Zealand Embassy, which will issue a STUDENT VISA.



The student's passport will be stamped with a STUDENT PERMIT when they enter New Zealand.

If you have an agent they will help with this.

**IMMIGRATION:** Full details of visa and permit requirements, advice on rights to employment in New Zealand while studying, and reporting requirements are available through the New Zealand Immigration Service, and can be viewed on their website at <http://www.immigration.govt.nz>

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## Comments from Students

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*My host parents always treat me like a real daughter. They always make me happy. I hope that we will keep in touch with each other as long as possible. **Japanese Student***

*My host mother and father are very kind. And host mother's cooking is very yum! My room is very nice. I really like it here. **Japanese Student***

*For education in New Zealand we not only have to remember information but we must be able to understand must be able to understand it and answer questions. I have learnt to ask teachers more questions and to be more confident. **Thai Student***

*The teachers are helpful and interested in me. **Korean Student***

*I soon discovered the advantages of a single sex school. There is a great atmosphere and no girl feels ashamed in a subject that she is not good at. Self-esteem of each individual is developed in a good and special way. **German Student***