

## **Draft Cohort Policy: Maraetai Beach School**

Maraetai Beach School operates a cohort entry policy, which allows new entrants to start school in cohort groups on the first day of the term, rather than singly on each child's 5th birthday (also known as continuous entry).

We feel cohort entry allows new entrants an easier transition to school and helps them build relationships with both their fellow new entrants and other students already in the class. It allows Maraetai Beach School to better plan its staffing requirements, and minimises disruption for new entrant teachers.

Once a child is formally enrolled at school, they must attend school regularly. Children must be enrolled in school by their 6th birthday.

### **5-year-old new entrants**

The MoE identify mid-term dates. These dates are the mid-point between the start of term and the start of the next term. If a child's birthday falls before the mid-term date, they cannot start until the mid-term cohort entry date. If their birthday falls after the mid-term date then they can start school at the beginning of the next term.

Maraetai Beach School discourages parents from enrolling their child at the age of 4 (though it is lawful to do so provided their 5th birthday occurs before the mid-term date of the term in which they would be starting school). We feel that it is more beneficial for all "new" 5-year-olds start together at the beginning of each term.

### **Community consultation**

The cohort entry policy has been approved by the Maraetai Beach School board of trustees, and developed in consultation with

- current parents
- school staff
- local early childhood centres
- prospective parents.

If the school decides to revoke the cohort entry policy, the board will undergo reasonable consultation with the stakeholders listed above, and provide at least one term's notice before the policy ends.