



Young Pioneers

Dear _____
Principal of _____ School.

_____ has enrolled in Young Pioneers self-sufficiency school programme. I am writing to ask your permission for her/him to attend once a week on a Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday during the term at our Spa Park community garden site.

What is Young Pioneers?

We provide a one-day-a-week self-sufficiency school programme for children aged 7-15 years old. As an independent non-profit organization, we are not obligated to register through the Ministry of Education (MOE) since we are not a school. However, our program is led by qualified teachers registered in New Zealand.

The Ministry has confirmed that our programme falls under Section 25B of the New Zealand Education Act, which allows students to be released from school attendance with the principal's approval to receive outside tuition. Schools determine how to record the attendance of students participating in Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) at Young Pioneers. Most schools mark these students as 'Justified Absence' or 'Learning Offsite'.

We are happy to inform the school of any days the student is absent from Young Pioneers for recording purposes. We maintain stringent health and safety policies to safeguard all attending children, which the school is welcome to review upon request. While we take responsibility for the children's health and safety during their time at Young Pioneers, the school retains the primary duty for the child's health and well-being as per the Act.

In the event of accidents/incidents during a child's attendance at Young Pioneers, we assume full responsibility, not the child's school. Our outdoor classroom is nestled in nature, offering expansive spaces for children to explore and thrive. Our curriculum aligns with the key competencies of the Early Childhood Curriculum (Te Whāriki) and the New Zealand School Curriculum. We collaborate with your child's school to complement existing educational efforts and enhance the child's learning experience.

At Young Pioneers, children learn problem-solving and risk-taking in a safe environment while developing an appreciation for and stewardship of the environment and others. They engage in authentic learning experiences, including gardening, cooking nutritious meals, food preservation (e.g., canning, fermenting), shelter building, rainwater harvesting, campfire cooking, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, basic animal husbandry, DIY skills, and collaborative problem-solving.

For further information, feel free to contact me at info@lakelocal.co.nz.

Thank you, Blair Cameron – Director/Lead Educator

I, _____
give permission for _____ to attend Young Pioneers self-sufficiency school programme.
Signature _____ Date _____