

Cohort Entry

Boulcott School operates a cohort entry policy as allowed by the Education and Training Act 2020. Cohort entry means New Entrants start school in groups at the start of each term or at a mid-term date set by the Ministry of Education, rather than on the day or week of their fifth birthday.

Research shows that sharing the experience of starting school with others can reduce anxiety, support emotional wellbeing and help with developing new friendships for our youngest tamariki. It also has a positive impact on connecting new parents with each other. Using scheduled entry points throughout the year, teachers can plan intentional learning experiences to support transition while also minimising the disruption to existing students classroom programmes.

Community consultation and notice

In Term 3 of 2023, Boulcott School consulted with the following groups to ensure cohort entry would be acceptable to our school community:

- Parents of current and prospective students
- Local Early Childhood Centres
- Boulcott School staff

After confirmation that the community found a policy of cohort entry generally acceptable, we notified the Ministry of Education of our policy change and gave one term's notice before starting. Cohort entry will be in effect as of Term 1 2024.

Start dates and visits

Boulcott School has eight entry points each year for new students, the start of each term and a midpoint set by the Ministry of Education. See Ministry of Education information for cohort dates [here](#). After turning 5, children start in the cohort that follows their birthday. Students must be 5 before starting school. Families can choose a later cohort if it is more convenient or better suits their child.

Children will have 3 school visits prior to starting school. School visits are usually held in Week 3, 4, 5 and 8, 9, 10 of each term. Visits at the end of Term 4 for tamariki starting in cohort 1 the following year, may be slightly different in timing due to end of year school events. All information regarding visits will be communicated to whānau by Karen Clements, the team leader for the Harakeke Syndicate. If your child needs extra visits, they can easily be arranged.

2024 Cohort dates

Term 1	Cohort 1 - Monday, 3 February 2025	Cohort 2 - Monday, 10 March 2025
Term 2	Cohort 3 - Monday, 28 April 2025	Cohort 4 - Monday, 26 May 2025
Term 3	Cohort 5 - Monday, 14 July 2025	Cohort 6 - Monday, 18 August 2025
Term 4	Cohort 7 - Monday, 6 October 2025	Cohort 8 - Monday, 10 November 2025
