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# Villa Education Trust Scholarship Scheme – *Every child deserves to learn*



VILLA EDUCATION TRUST  
*a model for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

## Who we are, what we do and how you can help.

*We are Villa Education Trust. We operate three middle schools and a senior academy in Auckland - two Charter Schools, one in South Auckland and one in West Auckland, and a private, boutique style school in Remuera, which is also home to the senior academy for Years 11-13.*

*We provide quality education and life skills that prepares our students to succeed in all areas of their academic and personal lives. We do this through our unique approach and teaching methods and a determination to never give up on any student, no matter how difficult the situation.*

*We have influenced and continue to support the lives of hundreds of children and their families.*

*We operate as a charitable trust within a tight budget. To enable us to continue to support children in need of our approach we must extend our scope and look for increased private sponsorship and donations.*

*This document describes who we are, what we do, and how you can make a difference in the lives of New Zealand children in the crucial middle school years and beyond.*



***“When I arrive at school each day I feel motivated and excited to learn new things.”***

## Our aim

Villa Education Trust aims to provide outstanding education for students irrespective of background or individual needs by combining the positive aspects of New Zealand schooling with outstanding teaching techniques, an integrated project based curriculum, an innovative day structure and a personalized and supportive learning environment.

## *We believe:*



## What we do

Since our establishment in 2002, we have been working to fulfill a dream – to provide the best possible education for children in the middle school years (Years 7-10), by combining the positive aspects of current schooling with outstanding teaching and learning techniques, an improved curriculum model, an innovative day structure and a personal and supportive learning environment. We opened our first school, **Mt Hobson Middle School**, in Remuera, in 2003.

An opportunity to demonstrate exactly how effective our approach is came in 2011 when the New Zealand Government established its Partnership School Policy to enable change for priority learners – Maori, Pacifica and other students who were not achieving in mainstream education.

We applied and were selected by the Government to operate one of the first partnership schools. In just 14 weeks we sought, secured and renovated a suitable building in a superb location in Manurewa and we recruited and employed a passionate team of highly qualified teachers. When we opened **South Auckland Middle School** in February 2014, we had a roll of 104 students. In 2016 we received permission to expand the roll to 150 with a further increase to 180 from the start of 2017.

In 2014 we were again successful in our application to open a second partnership school in West Auckland, and we opened **Middle School West Auckland** across a split site in Henderson and Glendene in February 2015. In Term 3 2016 we relocated the school's main campus to Lincoln Road, Henderson, to premises named Jack Ralston House after the late Kiwi sports coach. Here up to 180 students can be accommodated in three fully renovated villas. In addition, *Pohutukawa Villa*, the school's Te Reo bilingual unit, caters for up to 60 students.

In 2016, to meet the needs of our older students, we launched the **Villa NCEA Academy**, offering a unique approach to the senior schooling years. Based at Mt Hobson Middle School, the academy offers NCEA Levels 1-3 for students in Years 11-13.

Students come to us with huge need. At our partnership schools, In 2017 as few as 23% of our Year 7 entrants were “at or above” National Standards for reading, writing and mathematics. We have a lot of work to do with these children over the four years they are with us – but we are confident we'll bring about significant change. (Last year, the National Standard results at South Auckland Middle School improved by 18 per cent.)



With three middle schools and a senior academy, we have demonstrated our capability across a variety of locations, meeting a spectrum of learning needs from all backgrounds.

*“Here we don’t feel like students, we feel like a family.”*

## VET Schools:

At every Villa Education Trust school, expectations of the students are both demanding and fully-supported, regardless of their background. Students are expected to pursue excellence in every aspect of their lives. Our strong academic focus ensures they have the skills and knowledge to attend further/tertiary education in the future.

Despite each school being unique, core values unite the school communities:

- Excellence in learning.
- Cooperation among students, families and the community.
- Building of personal character through applied Christian values.
- A strong emphasis on thinking skills and students understanding how they think and learn.



### **Mt Hobson Middle School (MHMS) & Villa NCEA Academy (VNA): 131 Remuera Road, Remuera.**

Mt Hobson Middle School, our first school, opened in Remuera in February 2003. The boutique style private school has a maximum roll of 48 and keeps class sizes small (no more than 12).

The building itself is a quaint, renovated villa featuring ample teaching space, including a fully equipped Art and Technology suite, a Science Room and an English and Social Studies classroom as well as ample areas for group and individual study and up to date I.T. Children of all abilities and learning styles thrive in the small school environment, as well as those who may not be suited to a large school. A professional, experienced learning coach provides additional support to all students, customizing the program to suit those with high ability and those requiring more assistance and guidance. For students who possess highly developed ability, the project tasks they are set are challenging to keep them engaged, excited about learning and moving forward. For those with a learning difficulty or requiring development in specific areas, tasks are adapted to ensure progress is made and a sound understanding of each subject is grasped. Specialized learning programmes and interventions are used including Feuerstein.

For Years 11-13, the VNA offers a different approach to the senior years. Students study NCEA English and Mathematics for one period each day with qualified teachers and in addition complete 3-4 courses in NCEA Levels 1-3, in conjunction with Te Kura Correspondence School. The academy runs from 1-6pm which allows students the morning at home to study. Academic counselling ensures students can follow a pathway to the University of Auckland rank score for their chosen course of tertiary study.





## South Auckland Middle School (SAMS), 198 Mahia Road, Manurewa.

South Auckland Middle School, our first Partnership School, is officially classed as a Decile 1 school, with a maximum roll of 180. Over 80% of those enrolled are from Maori and Pasifika families, and are what the Government describes as 'priority learners'. Students are taught in classes no larger than 15 and are grouped into 'villas' of 60 overseen by an Academic Manager. An abundance of greenery surrounds the school which is equipped with modern classrooms, science rooms, art and technology suites, ICT and areas set aside for quiet, individual and small group learning. A large Whanau area is open during school hours and visits from parents and extended family are encouraged. Students and families are supported by a Community Liaison Manager (CLM) whose role is to be the link between the student, the school, the family and the community. The CLM identifies what support and guidance is available and works to ensure students are in school each day, ready and able to learn. All students are provided with full uniform (including shoes), stationery, field trips, on site I.T and a personalised learning plan.



The school's success resulted in a visit from TVNZ's Seven Sharp team with the report aired on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The programme reported: *"The very first charter school to open in New Zealand is flourishing and producing results since it opened in South Auckland four years ago, with students saying they've had a change in perspective and a new attitude towards learning since studying at the innovative school."*



## Middle School West Auckland (MSWA), Jack Ralston House, 287-289 Lincoln Road, Henderson & Pohutukawa Villa, 22-24 Waipareira Avenue, Henderson.

Middle School West Auckland, our second Partnership School, opened in Term 1 of 2015. It is a co-educational, small scale, middle school, for students in Years 7 to 10. It is located across two sites in Henderson, West Auckland, the largest being Jack Ralston House, which accommodates up to 180 students in three villas and Pohutukawa Villa, the school's bilingual unit which has a maximum roll of 60. Like its sister school (SAMS) at MSWA over 80% of those enrolled are priority



learners from Maori and Pasifika families. Students are taught in classes no larger than 15 and are grouped into 'villas' of 60 overseen by an Academic Manager. All students are provided with full uniform (including shoes), stationery, field trips, on site I.T and a personalised learning plan. Students and families are supported by Community Liaison Managers (CLM) whose role is to be the link between the student, the school, the family and the community. The CLM identifies what support and guidance is available and works to ensure students are in school each day, ready and able to learn. Each facility includes modern classrooms, science rooms, art and technology suites, ICT and areas set aside for quiet, individual and small group learning. Both sites also have a Whanau Room and welcome visits from parents and extended family. Pohutukawa Villa offers a comprehensive Te Reo Māori programme, comprising of language, tikanga and kaupapa (protocol) and as kapahaka. The programme provides a rich offering for parents and caregivers who wish to incorporate Te Ao Māori into their child's education.



### Our Model:

Most schools are based on a 19<sup>th</sup> Century model and build innovations on old foundations. The Villa Education Trust model for Years 7-10 was created to suit students learning in the 21st Century and brings an ideal means of teaching and learning to the information age. All VET schools use an Integrated Project Based Curriculum, designed and written by our Academic Advisor, Alwyn Poole and have a unique day structure and supportive approach.

We have a maximum of 15 students per class and 60 per "Villa" (mini-school within a school). We run a very hard-working academic morning and an effective arts and activities-based afternoon. Our school leaders have a teaching role. We frame our curriculum with set cross-curricula projects that the children have an hour a day to work on and hand in every five weeks – developing superb output skills along the way. We provide all uniform, stationery and IT.

Below is a brief outline of our curriculum model:

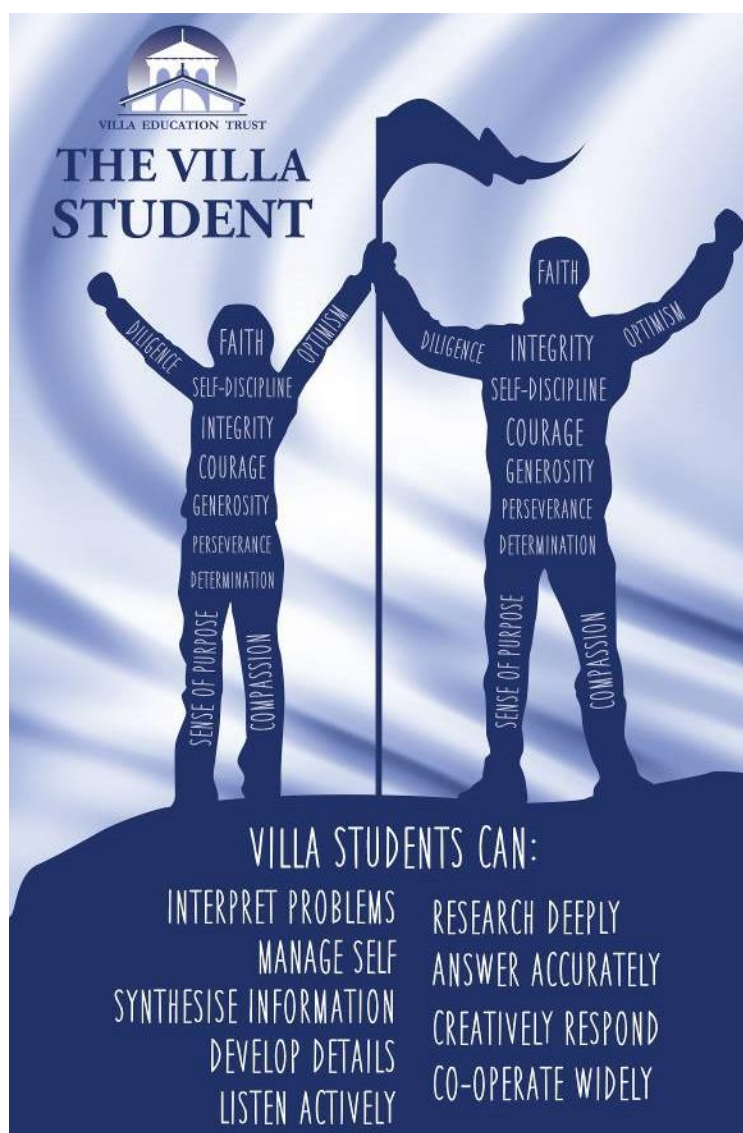
**Integrated Curriculum:** The Villa Education Trust model integrates Mathematics, Science, English, Social Studies and Technology. Knowledge is treated as being seamless and interrelated. An integrated curriculum is a means of breaking down the artificial barriers between subjects as they have been traditionally taught. It is an effective way of broadening the possible topics that may be learned and investigated. Within the VET model, all eight of the Essential Learning Areas of the NZ Curriculum are covered at the appropriate levels.

**Project-Based Curriculum:** Project-based curriculum treats the investigation of a topic as the basis for learning. There are eight projects per year level. Within each topic, teaching staff identify the areas of the NZ Curriculum that need to be overtly taught. Each project provides the students with the opportunity to direct their own learning and work to a depth and breadth that is difficult to achieve within a traditional structure.

Using this system, thinking and learning skills are enhanced and children develop essential research and time management skills crucial for their senior secondary school year studies.

### The key features of our model are:

- High-quality classroom teaching in core subjects
- A maximum student/teacher ratio of no more than 15:1
- Students grouped into villas of 60 students overseen by an experienced Academic Manager.
- An Individual Base Plan (IBP) for each child to suit their learning age, learning styles, strengths and interests.
- Excellent preparation for Year 11 entry and a strong academic base upon which to achieve highly in NCEA or alternative qualifications, and beyond.
- An academic morning and an activity-based afternoon encompassing music, art, community learning, community service and sport.
- Integrated Project Based Curriculum.
- Fully supported individualized learning and personal guidance.



**The key to our success lies in the uncompromising focus on academic achievement, coupled with an inquiry based project model and a learning programme that extends into the community, providing a wealth of opportunities for cultural, artistic and sporting development. Through this programme, staff can support the attainment of a wide range of social, emotional and academic outcomes.**



*“With 12 in a class we get so much time with the teachers, it is amazing.”*

## What we need

**We strive to ensure that we provide all our students with EXCELLENT education and opportunity. To achieve this, we need third party partnership support in the form of goods & services and philanthropic donations.**

The cost of schooling a child at Mt Hobson Middle School or the Villa NCEA Academy is \$15,000 per annum plus additional costs, including uniform, stationery, transport, camp etc. At present, we have several students attending both the school and the academy that need sponsorship to pay for their place. Children like *Rachel\**. *Rachel\** graduated from Middle School West Auckland last year. Her tragic story is unique, but sadly not uncommon. Coming from a background of violence and abuse with severe depression, her previous attempts at schooling failed. However, her experience at Middle School West Auckland (MSWA) changed the way she views education. This is her story in her own words: (\* name changed)

*“My name is Rachel\*, I'm 14 years old and I'm from Tauranga, I grew up there with my mum, dad and 4 siblings. Both of my parents were heavily addicted to drugs, mainly marijuana and because of this mine and my siblings upbringing wasn't the greatest. My dad was in and out of our lives, he left whenever he wanted to and came back whenever he felt like it, and his absence left my mum playing both her role and his as a father. But like my dad, my mum was also addicted to drugs and because of this they both fought ruthlessly, they'd hit each other and screamed at each other, sometimes they'd even hit themselves, so I'd take off and not come back for weeks and weeks on end, unsure whether or not my family were okay. In March 2015, I'd had enough and I reported my parents to CYFS; what I didn't know though was that CYFS would separate me from my siblings and from there everything went downhill, I slipped into a deep state of depression that resulted in me, at 13 years old, attempting to hang myself in the bathroom of my house. I couldn't live with myself knowing that I was the reason my siblings were miserable; I wanted to die.*

*I went to Starship and was on “suicide watch” for a week, popping fluoxetine for my depression and downing quetiapine to sleep so I didn't have to lay awake at night with my thoughts. MSWA helped me. By coming to school, I made a lot of new friends and developed a lot of great relationships with my teachers, these inspired me to want to come to school every day, so I found that I actually enjoyed learning. In the beginning, I was hopeless at math, but my math teacher supported me by giving me extra help and attention and by the end of the year, I found that I was actually good at some aspects of math, like trigonometry. I chose to surround myself with people that had a positive influence on me and people that I felt wouldn't get me into trouble and would hold me up at school instead of bring me down. I always hold the place that I grew up in dear to my heart however I believe that I can do great things with my life despite where I came from and I have already achieved so much since I started MSWA.”*



*“Here I feel safe and supported and able to learn.”*

**To enable highly vulnerable students like Rachel to keep moving in the right direction we urgently need your help**

- Are you able to sponsor (or part sponsor) a child in their schooling?
- Can you or your organisation give a one-off donation, or contribute on a regular basis?
- Can you help us raise awareness of our mission?
- Can you provide goods or services that would enable us to enhance our learning programme and the experience of our students?

*We thank you for reading this proposal and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this appeal with you and to show you around one or all our schools.*

**Please contact Karen Poole, CEO, on:**

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- **Phone:** 021 044 0556

## Business details

<b>Business name</b>	Villa Education Trust
<b>Trading name</b>	Villa Education Trust
<b>Established</b>	2002
<b>Structure</b>	Charitable Trust
<b>Date registered</b>	June 2002
<b>Charity number</b>	CC29088

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### Online/social media

<b>Website</b>	www.villaeducation.org.nz
<b>Facebook</b>	Mt Hobson Middle School South Auckland Middle School Middle School West Auckland

**Donations made to Villa Education Trust are tax deductible – therefore you can reclaim up to 33.3333% of any cash donation you make.**

