



Dear Parents,

The Gardens School follows a “cohort entry” procedure for children starting school as New Entrants.

Cohort entry is about helping children settle more easily into school. There is evidence that starting school alongside other children helps build relationships and supports a smoother entry to school life. It can also mean less disruption for new entrant teachers who are able to prepare for groups of children arriving on a specific date, rather than on an individual and ad hoc basis throughout the year.

Pre-visits and parent information sessions will be scheduled for the end of the term prior to a child starting and we encourage attendance at these.

Children will be able to start school at the **beginning of the term closest to their fifth birthday, or at the beginning of a later term, if parents wish to wait longer before starting their child at school** (*all children must be enrolled to start school by their sixth birthday*). This means that some children, depending on when in the term their birthday falls, will be able to start school up to eight weeks before they turn five, while other children will have to wait up to eight weeks after their fifth birthday before they can start school. New Entrant children who move in-zone/enrol once a term has commenced must wait for the next intake date, before starting, to meet with Ministry of Education rules of cohort entry.

The cut-off dates for 2019 have been set by the Ministry of Education and are as follows:

2019 Terms	Start Date	Cut off date for enrolment <i>(turning 5 no later than)</i>	Pre Visit Dates 8.50am – 11.10am <i>(morning tea 10.40 - 11.10)</i>	Parent information session 9.00 - 9.45am
Term One	30th January	20 th March	Friday 30th November Tuesday 4th December	Friday 30th November
Term Two	29 th April	10 th June	Tuesday 26th March Tuesday 2nd April	Tuesday 26th March
Term Three	22 nd July	2nd September	Tuesday 18th June Tuesday 25th June	Tuesday 18th June
Term Four	14 th October	11 th December	Tuesday 10th September Tuesday 17th September	Tuesday 10th September
Term 1 2020	To be confirmed by TGS	19th March, 2020 (Confirmed cut-off by Ministry of Education)	To be confirmed by TGS	To be confirmed by TGS

For more information about cohort enrolment, please see the Ministry of Education Website.

<https://education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Ministry/Legislation/Ed-Act-Update-Factsheets/Ed-Act-Update-FS-8-Enabling-schools-to-introduce-cohort-entry.pdf>