

DNI ORIENTATION EVENING



Otago Daily Times Photo

4 NOVEMBER 2025

INTRODUCTION - ORIENTATION NIGHT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS EVENING IS:

- TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO FEEL COMFORTABLE IN THE DNI ENVIRONMENT
- TO ADDRESS AS MANY UNKNOWNNS FOR STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE
- TO ANSWER AS MANY PARENT QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE
- TO INTRODUCE STUDENTS TO CHILDREN FROM OTHER CONTRIBUTING SCHOOLS

PROGRAMME

5PM WELCOME! SOME OF OUR YEAR 7 STUDENTS WILL WELCOME YOU

5:10PM MIX AND MINGLE, ASK QUESTIONS, BBQ!

Key Dates Timeline

The 2026 Term One start date is Monday 2 February, at 8:55am.

We will begin the year with a mihi whakatau (welcome) and parents are most welcome to join us for this. More information will come in January when we send class placement letters out.

- Year 7 students (and parents) and new Year 8's assemble on the grass beside the skate ramp. Please arrive between 8:35 and 8:45am.
- The staff and Year 8 students will begin the mihi whakatau at 8:55am, followed by refreshments. This should take about 45 - 50 minutes in total.

December 2025

Thursday 18 DNI Office open 9 - 11am, then closes for the year

January 2026

Mid January Uniforms will be available to purchase from NZ Uniforms, **24 Filleul Street**
Mid January Class placements will be emailed out
Monday 26 Office re-opens, 9am - 3pm daily
Friday 30 School open for students to visit teachers 12pm - 2pm

February 2026

Monday 2 February School opens
Wednesday 4 February School photos
Friday 6 February Waitangi Day - DNI closed
Weeks 2-4 Class Meetings - Format and dates to be advised

Term 1

Weeks beginning 9 Feb and 16 Waiora Camp for all students (one night stay), more information below.

School Day Timetable

8:25am School is open to students
8:55am School starts
11.00 - 11:20am Morning tea break (note this time may change)
12:25 - 12:35pm Lunch eating (seated in classrooms)
12:35 - 1:25pm Lunch break (warning bell at 1.20 pm)
2:55pm End of school bell
3:10pm All students to have left site

Office Open Dates

Our school office will close on Thursday 18 December at 11am and will reopen on Monday 26 January 2026, at 9am.

School Donation / Modules Costs

The school donation for 2026 has been set by the BOT at \$90 per family (per year), this is a voluntary donation towards general school activities. The Modules cost is \$130 for the year, this is a recoverable fee which is used to purchase the products and goods required to run the six module classes. These are payable by bulk payment in February, term by term or by direct credit on a regular basis. We also have eftpos facilities in the office (not credit card). Please talk to Charlotte or Anne about the option which best suits you.

Stationery

DNI uses OfficeMax MySchool. This provider guarantees their product both in terms of quality and price. The lists will be available here www.myschool.co.nz/Dunedinnorth and on our website, **from early December**. You DO NOT have to use OfficeMax.

We expect that children will have their stationery when school starts. by **Monday 2 February**.

Buses

DNI is well placed for bus access. The St Clair/Normanby bus, along with the Opoho/Shiel Hill bus travels through town to the Gardens regularly. Bus services also run from Pine Hill, Sawyers Bay and Waikouaiti to DNI. For the timetables please visit [ORC - Dunedin Buses](#)

Start of Year Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) Experience

All of our students participate in a one night/two day overnight experience in Term 1. We hold a noho marae in odd years and an outdoor education-based camp in even years. The 2026 event will therefore be a one-night Outdoor Education Camp. The cost will likely be about \$70 and this will be confirmed by the start of next year. The purpose of the overnight is to allow students to make friends in a non-classroom environment as well as taking part in activities. We ask for whānau to contribute to the cost if this is manageable but no one will miss out due to finance.

The dates for camps are Feb 9 - 18, and each class will attend a one night, two day camp over this date range - we can't determine the dates until we have confirmed the class lists, which will not be completed until January, but if you are keen to come as a parent helper (and can be flexible with dates over this time) we need to get police vetting underway before Christmas so please contact Charlotte to get this process started charlottem@dni.school.nz

Additionally, there are always a number of EOTC activities offered in electives (which run in Term 3 and Term 4 each year) and at least one elective involves overnight stays.

Music Lessons (Term time only)

At DNI we offer a range of options for learning a musical instrument. Itinerant music teachers are employed to run these classes and they involve a small cost. Most lessons take place during the school day and you can sign up for music lessons on our website or [at this link](#). The booklet will be emailed to you tonight, too so you can access the link.

Please let us know if you require hardship funding to enable your child to attend music lessons. All of these classes blend with, and complement, the school music programme.

Summer Sports

Engagement in sports is a great way to keep fit and learn valuable social skills. We offer a range of options and we're always keen to offer more where there is enough interest. You can sign up for summer sports [at this link](#). The booklet will be emailed to you tonight too, so you can access the link.

Class Placement Letter

In mid-January we will email a letter to enrolled students advising of their class teacher and inviting parents and students to call in at school to meet their teacher in the classroom environment before school starts. This will be on Friday 30 January and school will be open for students to visit teachers from 12pm - 2pm.

Bring Your Own Device

Devices can be helpful, but certainly not a necessity. We are a Google school and use Google classroom and the range of google applications to support teaching and learning. It is not compulsory that your child has their own device. If you are considering purchasing a device we would recommend a simple chromebook would be sufficient.

Blanket Permission

At the start of next year you will be asked to sign a blanket permission form that grants us permission to take children off school grounds for learning experiences. This saves us seeking permission for each and every activity. We will however inform you of outings ahead of time and will also seek written permission for high-risk activities and any event that requires an overnight stay.

Lunch Options

We offer the following lunch options at DNI:

- Lunchonline on Tuesday (Sushi), Wednesday (Pita Pit), Thursday (Sushi) and Fridays (Hell Pizza). Lunchonline can be ordered by parents via their website <https://www.lunchonline.co.nz/> up until 8:45am on the day of delivery. All further information can be found on their website.
- On Mondays students who need to purchase lunch are expected to do so before they enter the school grounds in the morning. Once at school we do not expect students to leave again.

Lunch online ordering will be available from our second day, Tuesday 3 February.

Uniform

Uniforms will be available to purchase from NZ Uniforms, **24 Filleul Street, by mid-January.**

NZ Uniforms is working at pace to have a uniform supply available for us after our previous supplier shut down with only a few weeks' notice. The refreshed uniform is designed for comfort, quality, climate, cost, practicality, and presentation. The new guidelines can be found on the website and at the link here:

 **Uniform Procedure Review 2025** This document will be emailed to you today as well so that you can access the document. Please also note that coloured hair (other than natural colours) is not acceptable.

School Hours

School is open for students from 8:25am in the mornings. While there may well be staff here earlier than this we can not guarantee that your children will be supervised so we ask that you do not drop off children before 8:25am. Classrooms are not opened before 8:25am.

School finishes at 2:55pm. With the exception of children that wait for the north line bus (Waitati, Warrington, Karitane, Waikouaiti), we expect that all students leave school by 3:10pm.

School Photos

Kelk Photography will be here on Wednesday 4 February, for individual and class photos. Please ensure students are at school on time.

Mobile Phones

Students are not permitted to have mobile phones during the school day. Please read the policy [linked here](#).

Internet Access and Social Media

During School Hours

Internet access is made available to students enrolled at DNI to further their education and to staff to enhance their professional activities including teaching, research, administration and management. The school's internet access policy has been drawn up to protect all parties - the students, the staff and the school. The school reserves the right to examine or delete any files that may be held on our drive or to monitor any internet sites visited.

Facebook (and most other social media including instagram) requires everyone to be at least **13 years old** before they can create an account. Creating an account with false information is a violation of their terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13. While we have little control over how students use technology outside of school, we wholeheartedly support this age limit as we find that many conflicts arise, or are continued via social media. Using social media sites at school is not permitted.

Outside of School Hours

While devices and the internet are a well entrenched and valuable educational tool and we certainly make good use of both at DNI, we also believe that parents/caregivers should not underestimate the negative impacts of unmonitored internet access and we cannot stress strongly enough the need for you, as parents/caregivers, to have really tight boundaries on internet and phone usage outside of school. We are also experiencing many children exhibiting behaviours akin to addiction around use of screens and there is [mounting research around potential damage to young brains](#).

Our recommendations include:

- No screens (phones, computers, ipads) after 7:00pm
- No screens in bedrooms (buy an alarm clock if your child needs one)
- Use Parental Control Software such as for example Net Nanny <https://www.netnanny.com/>
- Make use of internet filtering that allows you to shut down internet to particular devices at certain times
- No illegal use of social media/games (note that most social media platforms are R13 and games such as Fortnite are R12 - there is a good reason for this).
- Check out Netsafe <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/social-media-parents/>

More and more the associated effects of inappropriate internet usage (especially around social media) are spilling into school and affecting children negatively. It is time consuming and difficult to resolve internet based issues and our first question to you as parents/caregivers will be "have you addressed the recommendations listed above".

With regard to social media, it is our strong belief that it does little to enhance the lives of children and in fact often results in low self confidence and insidious bullying. We find that social media is addictive for children and they become reliant on 'likes' and online feedback to guide daily life. Like any addiction we know it is hard to quit, but we strongly suggest that if your child is already connected to these platforms, you reduce or remove access.

Regrettably we are not in a position to help resolve internet/device issues unless you have ensured that the above recommendations are in place.

Homework

Homework is one of those topics that polarise people! There are always as many families requesting homework as there are vehemently opposed to it.

For this reason we are flexible with homework. We do expect children to get involved in a range of extra-school learning activities including sports, music, computing clubs etc. We also expect children to read daily.

Teachers will outline their own expectations around homework in their welcome letter at the start of the school year. If these expectations do not work for your family, you are welcome to negotiate an alternative with the teacher.

Health and Participation

It is really important that children are kept at home when they are unwell to limit the spread of illness. Equally, we expect that all students present at school are able to participate in the school programme (swimming, PE etc).

If your child is unwell, or not well enough to fully participate in the school day, then the best place for them is bed, with a hottie! We thank you for your support with this.

Skateboards, Scooters and Bikes

Students are welcome to play on skateboards and scooters at break times, but not bikes. All students riding a bike or scooter to school will need a bike lock - we take no responsibility for the security of bikes and scooters.