

Education Review Office Report - December 2008

Provision for International Students

Compliance with the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students and the Provision of English Language Support

Garin College is a signatory to the *Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students* (the Code) established under section 238F of the Education Act 1989. This is a requirement of all schools that enrol international students in terms of the Act. Schools are also required to provide English language support for their international students.

The school complies with all aspects of the Code. There were 24 international students from eight different countries, including two exchange students, on the college roll at the time of this review. Students are offered accommodation in homestays or the college hostels.

Areas of good performance

- The board makes good provision for international students. Four staff have direct responsibility for their care and education. These are the international student director, the homestay coordinator and office administrator, a specialist teacher of English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) and an international teacher assistant. Fortnightly staff meetings ensure that international students' needs are identified and addressed.
- International students receive good quality pastoral care. They have access to the full range of welfare provision at the college and their attendance is closely monitored. There is regular communication between homestay carers and international department staff. Carers appreciate the support that is available. Students enjoy being at a small school that allows them to become integrated into its daily life.
- ESOL teaching is of a high standard. Classes are organised to allow for individualised assessment pathways within a framework of group tuition. The college has recently become accredited to offer ESOL qualifications, up to Level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework. Students' understanding of specific subject literacy is supported through in-class supervision from the ESOL teacher and international teacher assistant.
- Quality assurance processes have been improved since 2005. There has been a re-allocation of roles between the administrator and homestay coordinator. Records of homestay visits are well organised and current. International staff have annual appraisals.