



Director/Principal – Launchpad One Day School for Gifted Education

NZ Launchpad | Rotorua Full-time, permanent | \$120,000–\$140,000 | Start: Term 1, 2027

An exciting opportunity to lead and shape gifted education

Launchpad One Day School (ODS) is NZ Launchpad's specialist programme for gifted learners, based in Rotorua. We are seeking an exceptional educational leader to lead and shape the future direction of Launchpad One Day School from the 2027 school year.

Our vision is clear: to become a leader in gifted education in New Zealand. This is a unique opportunity to lead a programme with significant potential and help grow it into something truly special.

Launchpad One Day School is an established programme with the capacity to develop into a leading centre for gifted education nationally. You will be supported by an experienced mentor who designed the curriculum and will play a central role in expanding both the programme and its long-term impact.

As an independent organisation operating outside the public sector, we have the flexibility to move with purpose. You'll work closely with a committed Board, with the freedom to innovate and the ability to turn good ideas into action quickly.

The role

This is a broad leadership position. In addition to teaching, you will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school and the leadership of our teaching team. This is not a purely classroom-based role and would suit someone with previous senior leadership experience within a school setting.

We are looking for a high-performing educational leader who is committed to achieving exceptional outcomes for gifted learners. The role is demanding and challenging, but equally rewarding for the right person.

What the role involves

- Leading the strategic direction of Launchpad One Day School, with a focus on excellence in teaching and learning.
- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school, including administration and relationships with families and caregivers.
- Teaching and developing specialist programmes tailored to the needs of gifted learners.
- Leading, managing, and supporting teaching staff.
- Working closely with the NZ Launchpad Board on the ongoing development, growth, and direction of the programme.

What we're looking for

- Proven school leadership experience as a Principal, Deputy Principal, Head of Department, or in another significant leadership position within a school or comparable educational setting.
- Current valid teacher registration.
- A demonstrated track record of high performance and a commitment to maintaining high standards for yourself and others.
- Experience in gifted education, or a strong interest in the field.
- A confident people leader who is comfortable leading staff, teaching students, and managing the organisational demands of running a school.
- The vision, energy, and ambition to grow a programme and help shape something exceptional.

Salary

\$120,000–\$140,000 per annum, depending on skills and experience.

How to apply

Send your CV and a cover letter to julian@nzlaunchpad.nz.

Applications close 5pm, Friday 20 November 2026.

To find out more about Launchpad One Day School, visit www.onedayschool.nz.

For a confidential conversation about the role, contact Julian on 021 292 7151 or julian@nzlaunchpad.nz.