

Thursday 15 October 2026



Tēnā koe, nau mai haere mai ki to Kura o Wairau Valley.

Ngā mihi nui | thank you for your interest in the teaching position available for 2027. My name is Adam Alexander and I have the privilege of being the Principal of Wairau Valley School, a small rural kura situated in the township of Wairau Valley approximately 35 KM from the town centre of Blenheim. Surrounded by farmland (predominantly vineyards), our 31 students come from throughout the valley, from Marchburn in the east to Lake Argyle in the west.

Starting Term 1 2027, we have a permanent 0.8 FTE position in our Year 5-8 class where we can negotiate the day a week you would not be here. Known as the Fishtail Class, you will be supported daily by a wonderful teacher aide from 9-1 PM and encouraged to make the most of tuakana-teina with the junior room, known as the Wairau Class.

Our kura has been on a journey of change this year, refreshing our vision, values and branding. While the final product is yet to be determined, our new values spell the acronym R.I.V.E.R: Relationships, Integrity, Venture, Effort and Respect - or Whanaungatanga, Pono, Māia, Manawanui and Whakautē. A key aspect of your role will be living and strengthening these values among our tamariki and driving the potential of who our learners are when they leave Wairau Valley School.

To be successful in this role, you will:

- ✓ Need a high degree of passion and commitment to quality teaching and learning
- ✓ Demonstrate a high degree of autonomy
- ✓ Be driven to ensure all learners are successful
- ✓ Show initiative both inside and outside the classroom
- ✓ Bring strengths, passions or interests beyond reading, writing and mathematics that can enrich opportunities for our tamariki.
- ✓ Be an all round kind, caring person.

We highly encourage you if you're local to come visit and have a look around. You are also welcome to contact me should you have any questions or want to know more about the school or position. I can be contacted on (03) 572 2716 or principal@wairauvalley.school.nz. I do teach, so email is generally best. Also have a look around our website, particularly at the Strategic Plan and recent newsletters - wairauvalley.school.nz.

Applications will be processed as they are received so getting in early is encouraged. Applications, alongside a cover letter and CV are to be emailed to principal@wairauvalley.school.nz by 4 PM, 29th October 2026.

Advertised: 15th October 2026

Applications Close: Thursday 29th October, 4 PM

Shortlisting: Thursday 29th October

Interviews/Appointments: Tuesday 3rd November (*this can flexible for the right candidate and for those out of region, Monday is our Regional Anniversary*)

Start date: 27 January 2027

Mauri ora,

Adam Alexander
Principal, Wairau Valley School

Position Description

Position Title	Scale A Teacher
Year Level	Year 5-8
FTTE	0.8 Permanent, 4 days release per term
Reporting to	Principal

Purpose of the Position

To provide engaging, high-quality learning opportunities for students in Years 5-8 while contributing to the ongoing development of Wairau Valley School and its community.

All staff at Wairau Valley School are expected to work towards achieving our school's vision, values, and strategic goals.

The successful applicant will be expected to meet the Standards for the Teaching Profession and all relevant professional obligations.

What Makes This Position Special

- Significant professional autonomy within a Year 5-8 class.
- Opportunity to help shape the future direction of a rural school.
- Daily teacher aide support.
- Strong community engagement and authentic learning opportunities.

Key Responsibilities

These are the Standards of the Teaching Profession

Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership	Demonstrate commitment to tangata whenuatanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership in Aotearoa New Zealand.
Know the content and how to teach it	Understand how to design learning based on content, curriculum, and pedagogical knowledge.
Know the learner and the learning process	Understand the learning process and the diversity of learners' strengths, needs, languages, cultures, identities, and interests.
Plan for and implement effective teaching and learning	Plan for learning, teach, and respond to learners during teaching to progress their learning at an appropriate depth and pace.
Create and maintain supportive and safe learning environments	Develop a culture where learners feel safe, have their needs met, and are focussed on learning, with appropriate use of equipment and technologies.

Assess, provide feedback, and report on learning	Use regular and consistent assessment to inform teaching and share information on learner progress.
Engage in professional learning	Improve professional capability through evidence-based reflection, professional learning, and engagement with colleagues.
Engage in productive professional relationships	Work constructively with colleagues, parents/caregivers, and the community to support the learning and wellbeing of each learner.

Additional Opportunities and Responsibilities

When required:

- Cover bus duties in absence of the Bus Controller.
- Plan EOTC experiences alongside the Principal.
- Travel with sports teams and classes to tournaments.
- Lead and contribute ideas for whole school activities.
- Provide leadership cover in the absence of the Principal or other teacher(s).

Essential for the Position

- Demonstrates alignment with the school's values of Relationships, Integrity, Venture, Effort and Respect.
- Current NZ teacher registration.
- Recognised NZ teaching qualification.
- Recent NZ teaching experience.
- Commitment to culturally responsive practice including knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, positive practice for learning and inclusive education.
- Commitment to the Standards of the Teaching Profession, as well as all relevant policies, procedures and legislation that govern schools and education in NZ.

Desired for the Position

- Experience teaching across multiple curriculum levels.
- Full drivers licence.
- Strengths in curriculum leadership (Maths and Science ideally).
- Experience or interest in rural education.
- Ability to provide rich learning opportunities beyond the core curriculum.