

## Virtual Learning Network Primary

vlprimary.school.nz [no longer active]

Type of provider – Programme, non-profit  
Primary distance modality – Synchronous

### Background

The Virtual Learning Network Primary was established in 2009 to provide distance learning opportunities to children from Years 1 to 8 (in later years it including children up to Year 10). Unlike other distance learning providers, which are special institutions or private schools, the Virtual Learning Network Primary was considered a distance learning programme – in that it doesn't have legal status as a school within the educational context.

The Virtual Learning Network Primary programme merged with the Online Learning Community prior to the 2023 school year to form Kōtui Ako | Virtual Learning Network Aotearoa. To view the Kōtui Ako's full profile, visit:

<https://flanz.org.nz/dl-pulse/profiles/kotuiako/>

### Governance

The Virtual Learning Network Primary was established as a charitable trust on 23 July 2014 (registration number CC50872). The original purpose of the Virtual Learning Network Primary was described as:

The purpose of the Virtual Learning Network Primary will be to facilitate and support a collaborative community of primary schools from Years 1 to 8 and is inclusive of all Primary, Kura, Intermediate and Area Schools throughout New Zealand working together to provide improved educational opportunities for students through online learning, which promote the vision and values of the Virtual Learning Network Primary School Charter.

In particular the Virtual Learning Network Primary will:

1. Develop high quality teaching and learning programmes with an emphasis on Literacy, Numeracy and Languages.
2. Help children to acquire life skills, key competencies, and digital literacies.
3. Create partnerships between schools and their wider communities.
4. Recognise needs and provide opportunities through collaboration.
5. Value New Zealand's cultural heritage and individual differences within schools.
6. Provide opportunities for children with special needs.
7. Ensure immediate and long term sustainability of the VLNP.
8. Maintain the highest standards of professionalism and integrity. (Virtual Learning Network Primary, 2014, p. 2)

The trust was governed by a constitution, and it also followed all of the requirements outlined in the *Charities Act*. On 20 October 2022, as a part of the merger to form Kōtui Ako, the Virtual Learning Network Primary updated the name of the charitable trust to Kōtui Ako | Virtual Learning Network Aotearoa.

## Resourcing

The Virtual Learning Network Primary programme was resourced in a variety of ways. The Ministry of Education funded the programme's operational base, while participating schools contributed \$340.00 per annum in membership dues. Additionally, schools also bore participation costs:

*Small groups/individuals – less than 8 students*

- \$68.00 per student, per class participation cost
- (Student participation cost enables a student to be registered in one class for one or two semesters.)

*Whole class – 8 or more students but no more than a regular school class size*

- \$818.00 per 15 week semester

*Taster Classes – 5 weeks*

- \$273.00 – whole class participation in online classes of 5 weeks duration.
- No membership fee for first taster class for new schools.
- If participants choose to continue for the Semester annual membership fees then apply (above).

The Virtual Learning Network Primary programme also permitted parents to directly register students in instances where their schools was not a members or the student was homeschooled. In these instances, the parents were responsible for supporting their children's learning and paying participation costs.

\$205.00 per student, per semester (15 weeks) for the first class

\$68.00 each additional class

\$68.00 each additional family member

## Programming

The Virtual Learning Network Primary programming was guided by a *Protocols for Participation* document. The document outlined that:

Learning online with the VLN Primary is a partnership with participating schools; between school principals, classroom teachers, online teachers, school learning support people and whānau. We all have a part to play to ensure our learners are well supported.

These protocols are important to ensure that online classes run smoothly, students are well supported in their learning, and that collaborations between schools are effective and equitable. (Virtual Learning Network Primary, 2022)

The document went on to outline the requirements for partners in six distinct areas.

Participation Costs

- how we work collectively to fund and resource the programmes. Outline of costs and commitments to contribute.

Programmes of Learning

- how classes work - scheduling, programme planning, resources & assessment.

#### Registrations

- how registrations are made - priorities and procedure.

#### Student support

- what schools need to do to ensure successful learning for their students.

#### Attendance

- procedure on commitment to participate & following up on student attendance in class.

#### Resourcing

- expectations on students access to email, web resources, technical requirements and assistance.

The actual programming was described as being broken down into two 15-week semester blocks with Semester 1 classes beginning mid-Term 1 (week 5 or 6) and finishing at the end of Term 2, while Semester 2 classes ran from the start of Term 3 to midway through Term 4. In addition to these 15-week semester long courses, there were also some shorter, 5-week 'taster' courses offered (primarily for second languages and only available to whole classes). Occasionally there were courses that had different lengths, and these were identified in their annual courses prospectus.

Most of the Virtual Learning Network Primary classes were aimed at the Year 6 to 8 age group. Younger children were welcome to participate, but the programme recommended closer supervision and support by their home schools. Courses usually included an average class size of 12 students from three to four schools where students spent at least an hour a week participating in their virtual courses. Synchronous sessions through *Zoom* were scheduled weekly for approximately 30 minutes, coupled with independent learning activities in *Google Classrooms* or *SeeSaw*.

### Activity 2019

Overall, during the 2019 school year the Virtual Learning Network Primary provided virtual learning for 1314 course enrolments (311 were from students of Māori descent), which represented 1129 unique students who attended 50 different schools. The programme utilized 15 teachers or 3.08 full-time equivalent teachers.

Course	Length of learning experience	Amount of content in hours / frequency of class meeting	Nature of course / learning opportunity	Number of students	Number of Māori students	Amount of teacher time
Astronomy	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	7	6	1 hour a week
Digitech 1	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	9	3	1 hour a week
Digitech 2	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	12	3	1 hour a week
Digitech Extension	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	9	2	1 hour a week
Digitech Halfmoon Bay	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	9	4	1 hour a week
Digitech Wairakei	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	10	1	1 hour a week
Maths Extension 1	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	9	3	1 hour a week
Maths Extension 2	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	11	1	1 hour a week
Maths Sherwood	5 weeks	1 hour a week	Taster	15	1	1 hour a week
Filipino	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Tailored - Rosmini College	9	1	1 hour a week
French 1	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	14	8	1 hour a week
French 2	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	11	3	1 hour a week
French Extn	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	9	3	1 hour a week
French Mangatawhiri	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	20	1	1 hour a week
French Puketaha Y7	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	25	5	1 hour a week
French Puketaha Y8	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	30	1	1 hour a week

Course	Length of learning experience	Amount of content in hours / frequency of class meeting	Nature of course / learning opportunity	Number of students	Number of Māori students	Amount of teacher time
French Tongariro	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	13	8	1 hour a week
German	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	13	2	1 hour a week
German Extn	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	3	0	1 hour a week
Japanese 1	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	7	2	1 hour a week
Japanese 2	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	16	3	1 hour a week
Japanese Takanini	5 weeks	1 hour a week	Taster	28	6	1 hour a week
Kapa Haka Kinohaku	5 weeks	1 hour a week	Taster	15	13	1 hour a week
Kapa Haka Ohura	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	8	4	1 hour a week
Kapa Haka Taoroa	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	15	15	1 hour a week
Kapa Haka Tarras	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	11	1	1 hour a week
Kapa Haka Tutira	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	15	7	1 hour a week
Korean 1	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	5	1	1 hour a week
Korean 2	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	9	4	1 hour a week
Korean Ratapiko	5 weeks	1 hour a week	Taster	11	1	1 hour a week
Korean Ratapiko	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	11	1	1 hour a week
Korean Takanini	5 weeks	1 hour a week	Taster	21	6	1 hour a week
Korean Takanini	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	21	6	1 hour a week

Course	Length of learning experience	Amount of content in hours / frequency of class meeting	Nature of course / learning opportunity	Number of students	Number of Māori students	Amount of teacher time
Mandarin 1	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	10	3	1 hour a week
Mandarin 2	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	15	0	1 hour a week
Mandarin Oakura	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	14	0	1 hour a week
Mandarin Takanini	5 weeks	1 hour a week	Taster	10	6	1 hour a week
Mandarin Waiotira	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	20	6	1 hour a week
NZSL Aoraki	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	4	0	1 hour a week
NZSL	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	8	4	1 hour a week
Rural Group	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Cross curricular	35	8	1 hour a week
Spanish	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	16	1	1 hour a week
Spanish Extn	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	14	5	1 hour a week
Spanish Mt Somers	5 weeks	1 hour a week	Taster	18	0	1 hour a week
Spanish Tongariro	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	9	9	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori 1 (L1)	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	14	4	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori 2 (L1)	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	16	6	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Extn 1 (L2 & L3/L4)	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	8	8	1 hour a week

Course	Length of learning experience	Amount of content in hours / frequency of class meeting	Nature of course / learning opportunity	Number of students	Number of Māori students	Amount of teacher time
Te reo Māori Extn 2 (L2 & L3/L4)	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	10	2	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Leigh	5 weeks	1 hour a week	Taster	24	4	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Mangatawhiri Y4	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	28	0	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Mangatawhiri Y5 & 6	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	28	2	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Mangatawhiri Y7 & 8	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	22	21	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Stratford R3	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	28	4	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Stratford R8	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	28	3	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Stratford R20	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	26	6	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Stratford R1	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	28	4	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Stratford R6	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	27	12	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Tarras	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	14	3	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori The Gardens Tahī	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	14	7	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori The Gardens Rua	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	15	9	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Tutira	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	15	7	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Tapora	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	29	10	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Viscount R18	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	22	1	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Viscount R19	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	23	2	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Viscount R21	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	26	3	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Viscount R22	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	22	2	1 hour a week

Course	Length of learning experience	Amount of content in hours / frequency of class meeting	Nature of course / learning opportunity	Number of students	Number of Māori students	Amount of teacher time
Te reo Māori Viscount R23	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	22	2	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Viscount R24	15 weeks S1	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme	26	5	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Viscount R1	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	29	0	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Viscount R2	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	27	3	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Viscount R3	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	27	5	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Viscount R4	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	28	1	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Viscount R16	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	24	2	1 hour a week
Te reo Māori Viscount R17	15 weeks S2	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, start mid year	30	2	1 hour a week
Visual Art	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	17	2	1 hour a week
Web Design	30 weeks	1 hour a week	Regular semester programme, continues to S2	13	1	1 hour a week