

Frequently Asked Questions

Enrolment schemes in Wakatipu area

As a parent or caregiver, you might have specific questions about enrolments and enrolment schemes. If it is not covered here, you can ask your school or email us – otagosouthland.enrolmentschemes@education.govt.nz

Can I enrol a child at any school in Wakatipu?

Not necessarily. Most state schools in the Wakatipu area have enrolment schemes which help the school manage its roll. A school with an enrolment scheme has a home zone, which is a geographically defined area around the school.

- Students living inside the zone are guaranteed a place at the school.
- Students who live outside the zone can apply to enrol but acceptance of their application is subject to places being available for them – and if there are fewer places available than there are applicants, their acceptance is subject to the outcome of a pre-enrolment process called a ballot.

We are currently consulting over amending Arrowtown School, Remarkables Primary School and Shotover Primary School enrolment schemes.

How do I know what the home zone is for schools in Wakatipu?

- All of the current enrolment schemes can be found at [Find a school](#). This includes the current scheme for Arrowtown School and Shotover Primary School. Here you'll be able to view the home zone on a map of the local area and its written description.
- Information about enrolment schemes is also available on each school's website, or through contacting the school for information.

We are currently amending the scheme for Arrowtown School, Remarkables Primary School and Shotover Primary School. Information about these proposed changes can be found <https://www.education.govt.nz/have-your-say/wakatipu-basin-enrolment-scheme-amendments/details>.

What is a home zone?

A defined geographical area, with its boundaries indicated by street names and numbers among other features.

Home zones are consulted over before being finalised – we need to understand any geographic, access or community implications before these come into effect. If you have any comment about the proposed home zones amendments for Arrowtown School, Remarkables Primary School and Shotover Primary School, please complete the survey, or email us at otagosouthland.enrolmentschemes@education.govt.nz.

If we live inside the home zone of a state school, does that school have to accept our enrolment application?

Yes. Living in the enrolment scheme home zone means you have entitlement to enrol your child at that school. It's important to note that schools may ask for proof that you genuinely live at the address in the home zone, and it's your responsibility to provide evidence to show this.

If we live outside the home zone of a state school, can we still get my child into that school?

Not necessarily. Schools can enrol some out of zone students, but only if the School Board determines it has space available after all in-zone students are enrolled or planned for.

There are processes that Boards follow to enrol out of zone students, and these only happen at certain time of the year. More information can be found about these processes [here](#) or by contacting the School for more information.

If we live one street or a few street numbers away from a school's home zone boundary, can my child still attend the school?

No. You are considered to be outside the zone and should refer to the question above.

My children attend Shotover Primary School, where the boundary of its home zone is proposed to change. Currently we live inside the zone, but we won't when it changes. Will my children be able to continue attending the school?

Yes. When a home zone changes, current students who are living at an address that becomes out-of-zone are allowed to continue at the school.

The enrolment scheme legislation allows for transitional arrangements for families impacted by zoning changes. This will be introduced for Shotover Primary School and will mean that in certain circumstances, siblings of current Shotover Primary School students living in this area, may also be entitled to enrol at Shotover Primary School. This is commonly known as 'grandparenting'.

What is grandparenting or a transitional arrangement?

A transitional arrangement (often referred to as grandparenting) can be included in new or amended zones to help reduce the impact of enrolment schemes to families that are already enrolled at the school. This means that younger siblings can enrol at the same school as their older brother or sister and gives families certainty about their enrolment eligibility, without having to wait for an out of zone process. It means these students would be treated as in-zone and have the same entitlement to enrol as if they lived in the home zone.

Transitional arrangements do not apply to everyone – criteria must be met. Grandparenting is not being considered for Arrowtown School as their zone is not proposed to be reduced.

The criteria are outlined for Shotover Primary School below.

How will grandparenting (transitional arrangement) work for Shotover Primary School?

Shotover Primary School – transitional arrangement for an *amended enrolment scheme*.

From Term 1, 2027, if approved, the transitional arrangement applies for new enrolments if you can answer 'yes' to all the questions below:

| Criteria to be met | Yes or No? |
|---|------------|
| New student enrolling lives outside the amended home zone of Shotover Primary School | |
| New student enrolling has a sibling who was enrolled at Shotover Primary School at the time the amended enrolment scheme was adopted (expected to be end 2026 – exact date to be confirmed) | |
| The sibling already enrolled at Shotover Primary School, at the time the amendment is adopted (expected to be end 2026) lives inside the home zone as it was before the amendment | |
| New student enrolling lives in the home zone as it was before the amendment, at the time of their enrolment | |
| Will the sibling (currently enrolled child) still be enrolled and attending the school when the new student is enrolled at the school? | |

If all five criteria are met, the new student enrolling will be entitled to enrol and attend Shotover Primary School. The school may request evidence to verify the information before enrolling a new student under the transitional arrangement.