



Frequently Asked Questions

Enrolment schemes

As a parent or caregiver, you might have specific questions about enrolments and enrolment schemes. If it is not covered here, you should ask your school or email us –

otagosouthland.enrolmentschemes@education.govt.nz

Can I enrol a child at any school in Otago Southland region?

Not necessarily. Many State schools in Otago Southland 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 introducing an enrolment scheme for Maheno School.

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

- All of the current enrolment schemes can be found at [Find a 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 developing a new scheme for Maheno School. Information about the proposed changes can be found at **<https://www.education.govt.nz/have-your-say/maheno-school/details>**

Why does Maheno School need an enrolment scheme?

An enrolment scheme is a tool to help schools manage the roll. This is needed to prevent the risk of overcrowding and ensure that the school does not have more students than its facilities can cope with. It's important that Maheno School has an enrolment scheme so it can grow in a managed way and it's important that local students have access to their local school.

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 zone for Maheno 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 Board of Trustees 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.