

Theme One: Transforming Dilworth Governance

Recommendation No.1: Reform and revitalise the Dilworth Trust Board.

“We recommend that Dilworth Trust Board reforms and revitalises its structure and implements change, so its members have the wide variety of governance skills and experience necessary to govern a boarding school of students ranging from primary to secondary level.”

Progress to date

In May 2023, the Dilworth Trust Board resolved to undertake an external governance review.

The review will include focus group discussions with key School community stakeholder groups (parents and staff) and incorporate international benchmarking against the commercial and educational governance of comparable institutions including schools, universities, and other establishments with significant trust endowments. It will also compare approaches to good governance adopted by other independent schools in New Zealand. It will give consideration to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Pasifika governance constructs relevant to the New Zealand educational environment.

The Board has appointed former Auckland Grammar School headmaster Mr John Morris as an additional trustee to the Board. Mr Morris was most recently Executive Principal of Crimson Global Academy, an online school operating globally on a digital platform. He will assist in, amongst other things, overseeing the review and establishing an interim governance structure for the School.

The review commenced in October 2023.

Next steps

The review team has been provided with the Independent Inquiry’s Report and asked to have regard to its recommendations with respect to reform and revitalisation of the Dilworth Trust Board.

The review team will undertake discussions with relevant stakeholder groups and undertake an international benchmarking analysis, with a view to reporting to the Board by early 2024.

Subject to the Board’s consideration of the recommendations of the review, and the nature of the recommendations, the intention is to implement agreed changes or reforms over the course of 2024/25 as is practical.