



The William Pike Challenge Award

The three elements of the William Pike Challenge Award are *Outdoor Activities*, *Community Service* and *Passion Projects*. They provide exciting opportunities for our youth to step outside their comfort zone and develop and strengthen vital universal life skills. Here is an explanation of each element and how they help prepare our youth to overcome challenge and change.



Our children are stepping into a rapidly and dramatically changing world. They will be challenged by unexpected changes and obstacles in life that we can probably yet imagine.

When big challenge and change comes, succeeding or failing comes down to one thing – whether you are already used to pushing yourself out of your comfort zone. That's where the *William Pike Challenge Award* comes in.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Outdoor Activities provide opportunities for students to step outside of their comfort zone, to take risks, build confidence and strengthen relationships with peers. Studies have shown that spending time in nature improves people's mental wellbeing by lifting their mood and decreasing feelings of depression, anxiety and stress. Investing in our youths mental health means they're more prepared to overcome challenge and change that will inevitably come their way. Outdoor Activities not only build universal life skills and an explorer mindset, they also remind our youth about the beauty and accessibility of New Zealand's landscape.

Students are required to do five Outdoor Activities that are offsite, more than 2 hours long and challenging in nature. The most impactful youth development takes place over a long period of time, and we recommend that Outdoor Activities are spread out throughout the school year.





COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service or voluntary work, allows students to explore, develop and strengthen empathy, humility and compassion. Universal life skills many students may not have had the opportunity to untap. Doing unpaid work and giving back to the community also provides opportunities for students to step outside of their comfort zone, develop communication skills, connectedness with the local community, peers and whānau and embrace a greater sense of purpose.

The 20 hours of Community Service can be done as a school group in school hours or as individual students. Many students continue to do voluntary work well after they've completed the William Pike Challenge Award; those feel-good feelings are hard to shake off!

PASSION PROJECTS

Passion Projects are a sport or hobby that's totally new to the student. Passion Projects encourage students to take on a challenge, to build self belief, work ethic, capability and connectedness with peers. Trying something new and working hard to master it develops determination, concentration and resilience.

The 20 hours of Passion Projects is usually done in the students own time, however, activities offered by the school, like a language or sport can be attributed to Passion Project hours.



The Key competencies of the New Zealand Curriculum sit naturally within the William Pike Challenge Award programme, particularly; self-management, relating to others and participating and contributing. Students have opportunities to develop, practise and demonstrate these in a range of authentic contexts.

The Challenge Award complements our 'Education Outside the Classroom' (EOTC) programme, as well as supporting aspects of the Health and Physical Education curriculum area.

It's these experiences and opportunities that prepare kids for the future in a very practical way - preparation that would not be possible in a classroom setting alone. A \$40 fee hooks students up to the 'Challenge Hub' which provides teachers with a snapshot of students' progress. It is also a great tracking tool for students who can upload photos, log their community service hours, and keep an online diary about their experiences as they complete the challenge award.

The Hub has been participated in the William Pike Challenge Award since 2020.