



WOODSTOCK SCHOOL

Woodstock School, Fairfield
Hamilton
Ph:07 8556686
Email: FrontOffice@woodstock.school.nz
31.08.2015

To whom it may concern:
Re. *Cool Schools Peer Mediation Programme:*

We have been running our Peer Mediation programme for almost two years. We became interested in this programme when we saw a need for all of our students, particularly in playtime sessions, to have guidelines for managing their behaviour. So amongst other initiatives, we began training Peer Mediators as a way of developing self-managing skills in conflict situations, which don't involve physical behaviours.

Our staff underwent training in 2014, from Christina Barruel of the Peace Foundation, and we then trained a composite group of twenty two Year 4-6 students, who volunteered to become Peer Mediators. Teachers have readily taken conflict resolution into their classroom practice, training the students in conflict solving skills, active listening, and making 'I' statements, which is all part of the mediation process.

Our Mediators help students resolve conflict on an average of eleven times a week, and we work to consistently keep the profile of conflict resolution and Peer Mediation high, so that school-wide interest and motivation is maintained.

The *Cool Schools* programme fits well with our vision for the *Woodstock Learner*, which encourages students to build positive relationships, participate in leadership, become self-managing, and to think constructively through problem-solving, and communicating effectively.

Our vision is that Woodstock Learners will *contribute positively to their own well-being, and to that of society, and their environment.*

We are pleased with our Peer Mediation programme so far, and we would recommend this programme, because it helps students develop the following skills:

- an awareness of their responses, and the responses of others to conflict
- empowerment to develop life-long skills in peaceful conflict resolution
- leadership and service to others
- empowerment to believe that they can make a positive difference at school, in their homes, and in their communities

Yours sincerely

Margaret Bull- Peer Mediation Co-ordinator 2015