



**MindPlus**

NZ Centre for Gifted Education  
*Empowering Extraordinary Minds*

# About MindPlus

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# About MindPlus

The New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education is a non-profit organisation that operates the MindPlus family of programmes across New Zealand, both face to face and online.

## What is MindPlus?

MindPlus is a one session a week programme with a specialist teacher that runs during school time, or sometimes at home.

Students aged 6-13 have three options for accessing the programme:

- **MindPlus OurSchool:** Where like-minds come together - The original in-person, day-long experience at one of our host schools around New Zealand
- **MindPlus YourSchool:** Enrichment brought to your place - Working with other gifted learners at your own school/kura, with the support of our specialist teacher and curriculum
- **MindPlus Online:** A space where you can connect from anywhere - Working from home or your school, interacting with other learners and our teacher online.

For gifted learners who need a few hours per week of strengths-based extension (as part of the above, or on its own) we also offer MindPlus Badges.

Our specialist teachers understand neurodiverse learners and what makes them tick - and small class numbers, online and face to face, enable personalised learning that focuses on each child's

strengths and interests. Students gain the most benefit when they participate for two or more years, building lasting relationships with the teacher and like-minded peers.

## What's the thinking behind the one session a week model?

We designed MindPlus to meet specific learning, social and emotional needs of intellectually and creatively gifted learners. It is not intended to meet all of their needs. There are a range of needs that are best met at their regular school, at home and within the community.

One session per week at MindPlus is sufficient to provide cognitive challenge, increased creative productivity, interpersonal development, and sustained talent development, all of which can be taken back into regular school interactions.

## This information pack covers:

- Our MindPlus programmes
- What we teach - our NZCGE curriculum
- How to apply to join a MindPlus programme
- Fees and scholarships available.

To learn more, check out our 15 minute Introduction to MindPlus Webinar [here](#).

## What would one session a week at MindPlus be like for me?

Every session at MindPlus is unique, because every group of students is unique. A session might include:

- In-depth philosophical discussions where you get to share your thinking and ideas
- Understanding what giftedness means, for you and for other kids like you, and how to develop your own strengths
- Creative thinking games, where you can let your imagination go wild!
- Connecting with like-minded gifted kids all over New Zealand in one of our MindPlus clubs such as Coders or Creative Writing.
- Individualised activities that you design with your specialist teacher that will help you to work on your personal interests and talents, like fantasy writing, game design, coding, chess, 3D construction, art, design, learning another language ...

Check out some real life days at MindPlus [here](#).



# MindPlus OurSchool

Come together with other Y2 - 8 gifted learners in small classes for one day per week during school hours at one of our host schools around NZ.

## Does my child's school have to authorise my child to attend MindPlus?

Yes, the child is considered legally still at school, so the school board's authorisation is required for them to leave school to attend the programme.

It's also optimal for your child's school - we call them the Contributing School - to be fully on board. We work with your child's classroom teacher to share how your child is doing with us, and we can support them to extend and manage your child more effectively at school.

Many of our Contributing Schools send a number of students to us at MindPlus and contribute to their fees as discussed further below.

## Some kids have learning challenges as well as learning gifts. How do you manage that in the classroom?

Giftedness can co-exist with a range of other challenges. Our specialist educators are able to recognise and understand many of these challenges and shape the learning programme so that these challenges are 'worked around' in the MindPlus day. Examples of this might include - giving a range of options to respond to learning activities rather than just writing; facilitating movement as needed; having designated spaces for individual work as needed; use of assistive technologies as needed. We are a strengths-based

programme, so will work with students to make best use of their strengths.

It's also really important that the children complement each other and are able to learn well as a group. To work out the best fit for each student, our entry process gathers information from home and school and students are also invited to participate in a three hour workshop. We watch how the students interact, and find out more about their intellectual, creative, social and cultural ways of working.

We are working to achieve a balance of gender, ethnicity and types of neurodiversity across all our classes. It is worth noting that, historically, schools (and sometimes parents) have been less quick to spot giftedness in girls and children from non-majority cultures.

## Where are MindPlus OurSchool units located?

MindPlus OurSchool currently operates in 11 Host Schools around NZ.

New units are able to be opened where there is a sufficient core of students and Contributing Schools - talk to us about how to build this in your area!

**If you do not live near one of these units, and your school is not able to offer MindPlus YourSchool, then you may wish to consider MindPlus Online.**



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## OurSchool Locations

- **Auckland**
  - North (Verran Primary School, Birkdale)
  - West (Bruce McLaren Intermediate, Henderson)
  - Central (Grey Lynn Primary School, Grey Lynn)
  - East (Riverina Primary School, Pakuranga)
- **Tauranga** (Gate Pa School)
- **Manawatū** (Queen Elizabeth College)
- **Lower Hutt** (Rata Street School)
- **Wellington**
  - West (Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton)
  - South (Evans Bay Intermediate, Kilbirnie)
- **Christchurch** (Riccarton High School)
- **Mid-Canterbury** (Ashburton Borough School)



# MindPlus YourSchool

Work with other Y2-8 gifted learners at your own school/kura, alongside our specialist MindPlus teacher online.

## Who is MindPlus YourSchool for?

MindPlus YourSchool is designed for gifted kids and schools in the following situations:

- Students don't have a MindPlus OurSchool unit accessible to them
- Students feel comfortable at their existing schools and would prefer to get the support they need there
- Students want to learn alongside their peers rather than wholly online
- Schools want to provide effectively for gifted kids at their own school but do not have teaching staff with this specialisation.



## How does MindPlus YourSchool work?

For students, MindPlus YourSchool happens once a week when a group of gifted kids from the school comes together for half a day with a teacher from the school ("the Partner Teacher"). During each session, the students and their Partner Teacher meet online with their MindPlus Coach and then work through the same MindPlus OurSchool unit, with guidance, feedback and support from their Partner Teacher and online MindPlus Coach. The extra benefit for the students is that their Partner Teacher becomes a champion for them and can help other teachers at the school to more effectively meet their needs.

## Can my school be a part of MindPlus YourSchool?

If you would like your school to be a MindPlus Partner School, do ask them to get in touch with us.

See our MindPlus YourSchool overview [here](#) for more information.



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# MindPlus Online

Work independently from home or your school, interacting online with other learners and our specialist MindPlus teacher.

## How does MindPlus Online work?

MindPlus Online connects gifted children with like-minded peers, providing them with an online learning and social support network. Work is introduced and supervised by a specialist teacher who knows how to get the best from an online learning environment and understands what makes gifted learners tick. MindPlus Online students can negotiate their own learning pathway, catering for individual strengths and interests and ensuring that they are appropriately stretched.



## A MindPlus Online session consists of:

- A 45 minute online meeting with a small class of like-minded peers and a specialist educator (this can be before or after school or during the school day)
- 2 hours (minimum) of MindPlus activities to complete on our MindPlus Learning Platform
- Freedom to share and interact with online classmates on our MindPlus Learning Platform.

## What kind of students does MindPlus Online suit?

MindPlus Online works for gifted kids across many different situations. Some of our Online students do MindPlus Online at home as an extra activity, without the involvement of their regular school. Some of our kids are home-schooled and do MindPlus Online as part of their schoolwork. Other kids do MindPlus Online at school with the support of the school. Some of our MindPlus kids live outside NZ and really value the specialist support NZCGE provides as they can't find this where they are.



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# Which MindPlus option is right for my child?

In order to better understand themselves as gifted, and learn to meet their unique challenges, your child would benefit from time together with other gifted learners and a specialist teacher.

Your school could offer their own MindPlus programme.



You are able to get your child to a local MindPlus class for 1 day each week.



There's no nearby MindPlus class that you can get to.



# What we teach at MindPlus

The learning experiences we provide at MindPlus are built on our own New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education Curriculum. This is a purpose-built specialist curriculum for gifted learners, developed with national and international experts and research. It underpins all MindPlus programmes and complements the New Zealand Curriculum.

The NZCGE Curriculum involves advanced content and learning processes. These strands are connected and provide abstraction, depth and complexity in learning that builds over time.

## Content Strands

### Personal Development

Personal development is about understanding one's own gifted identity - the joys and challenges of being gifted along with the skills and strategies to navigate personal and social development.

### Conceptual Development

Conceptual development is about thinking and learning through ideas and concepts. It introduces advanced and abstract content and equips students with skills in dealing with big ideas and questions.

### Talent Development

Talent development is specifically designed to identify and build students' strengths, passions and interests, moving them deliberately towards expertise.

## Process Strands

Our curriculum also supports students to develop the 'how to' skills needed for in-depth and complex learning. These skills are taught explicitly and also woven through the content strands. The main process skills developed through the curriculum are Research, Complex Thinking and Communication Skills.



## Students interact with learners of like-minds to:



Develop an understanding of self and others as gifted individuals.



Explore and develop strengths, talents, interests and passions.



Develop and engage in abstract learning.



Build self-direction and autonomy in learning.



Develop and use sophisticated learning processes.

## Like Minds

The NZCGE Curriculum is built on the premise that effective learning for gifted students involves bringing student of like minds together. This is strongly identified as critical in the research literature.

# How to apply

## How do I submit an application?

Our application process is designed to gather a wide range of information about each child from home and school - their intellectual, creative, social, personal and cultural abilities and qualities. We are looking for a fit between the child's abilities and potential and what we offer in MindPlus programmes.

## The MindPlus Application

There is an Application Fee of \$30.

All of these forms are required to be submitted online before your Application can be considered. Please let your child's classroom teacher and principal know that these are required and follow them up to ensure they have been submitted. The principal will need to obtain board authorisation for your child to leave school to attend MindPlus, so please allow sufficient time for this.

## How will I find out if my child has been accepted?

Once you have submitted your Application, we will determine whether we think that MindPlus would be a good fit for your child. If we are unsure, as does happen in some cases, we may ask you to bring your child to a three hour Entry Workshop. At the workshop, your child will work on a range of stimulating and challenging activities together with others.

If we consider that MindPlus would work well for your child, we will look to see if a place is available in the programme/ at the unit for which you have applied. This may not be available immediately given that some of our units are at full capacity and, depending on demand levels, we may need to work to open another class.

If we have a place available, we will make you a Place Offer by email. This will usually be within 2 weeks of the application closing date for the term, or of when the application was submitted for programmes other than OurSchool. If a place is not immediately available, we will ask you if you would like to go onto our Waiting List. Once you have a Place Offer, you are able to apply for a Scholarship (see below)

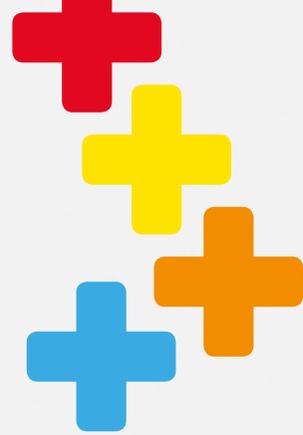
## How will you liaise with my child's school?

Once you have accepted your Place Offer, we will write to your child's principal to confirm that your child will be participating in the programme and outlining how we can work together to support your child, and being available to discuss any issues as and when needed. We will also ask the principal to confirm whether the school will be contributing to the cost of fees for the student as a number of schools do.

## Home-schooled students

If your child is home-schooled, we will adapt these processes to work with you directly.

**Please note that this section covers only MindPlus OurSchool and MindPlus Online. The application process for MindPlus YourSchool will be managed by Partner Schools directly.**



# Fees and support

Term fees are billed before the start of each new term and payment must be made, or an automatic payment set up, before your child starts the term.

We know that these fees are significant for many families and we suggest that families work with their schools to support them to attend. If that support is unavailable and the family is otherwise unable to afford for their child to attend MindPlus, we do have a Scholarship Fund which is available to assist a small number of students each year who meet its criteria.

We ask families who can afford it to consider "buy one, give one" - providing a scholarship for a child who would otherwise not be able to attend MindPlus to join the programme alongside your child.

## How to work with your school to support

As a first port of call, once you have a Place Offer, we suggest that you talk to the principal at your child's school about how they can support your gifted child to participate in MindPlus.

Under the Government's National Education and Learning Priorities, all schools have a responsibility to identify and provide for gifted learners (NAG 1(c)(iii)). You may want to ask your school what they do to provide for gifted learners and whether they would consider supporting your child to participate in MindPlus as part of this commitment.

## Schools have a number of ways to support gifted kids by working or partnering with NZCGE:

- Allowing their students to attend MindPlus OurSchool for one day per week, and potentially subsidising their fees or providing scholarships for them to attend, as a number of our Contributing Schools do
- Becoming a MindPlus Partner School and offering MindPlus YourSchool to a group of gifted kids working with a teacher from the school and a MindPlus teacher online
- Supporting individual students to participate in MindPlus Online or MindPlus Badges whilst at school and potentially subsidising their fees.

We are available to talk with your child's school about how these options could work for them.

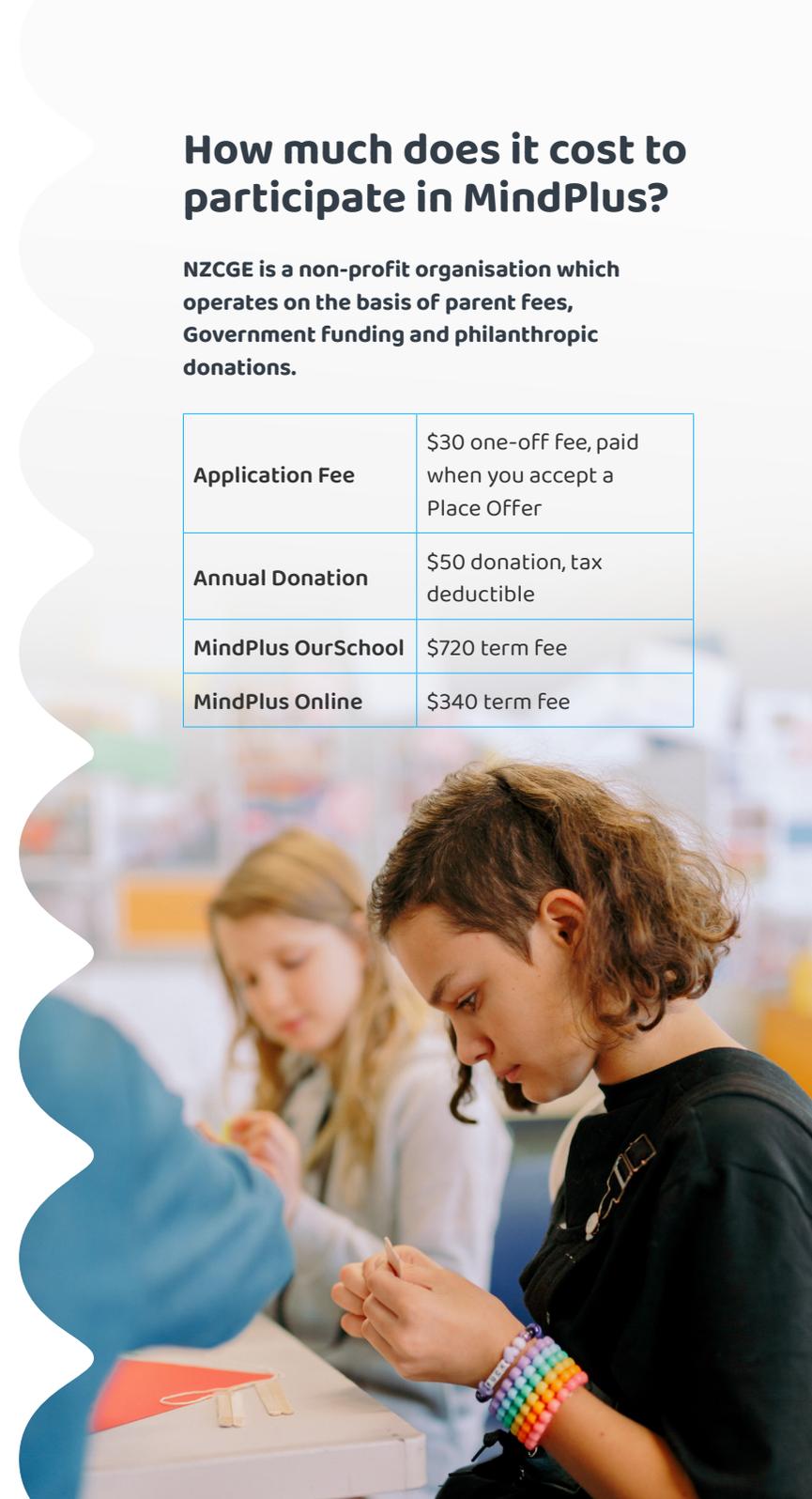
## How to find other community sources of support

If your school is unable to provide financial support themselves, they may still be able to help you identify other potential sources of support in your community. Schools may know of or already be working with local trusts, businesses, churches, iwi organisations, Lions and Rotary Clubs and other service organisations who may support families in your situation.

## How much does it cost to participate in MindPlus?

NZCGE is a non-profit organisation which operates on the basis of parent fees, Government funding and philanthropic donations.

<b>Application Fee</b>	\$30 one-off fee, paid when you accept a Place Offer
<b>Annual Donation</b>	\$50 donation, tax deductible
<b>MindPlus OurSchool</b>	\$720 term fee
<b>MindPlus Online</b>	\$340 term fee



# Scholarships

## How to apply for a full or part scholarship

If you have not been able to find support through your school or in your local community and you meet our criteria, you can apply for a full or part scholarship from our Scholarship Fund.

Our main Scholarship Fund has a strategic focus on increasing the number of kids who are right now significantly under-represented in our programmes: girls, Māori and Pasifika students, and students from low decile schools.

## Criteria

**To be eligible for our main Scholarship Fund, you and your child must meet at least one of the following criteria:**

- Your child is female
- Your child identifies as Māori and/ or Pasifika
- Your child attends a Decile 1-4 school

You **also** need to show us that:

- Without the full or part scholarship, your family could not afford for your child to participate in MindPlus. You'll need to provide a statement that outlines your family's financial position, and you are able to attach information, such as a family budget, to support your statement
- You have made a significant effort to find other sources of financial assistance for your child, including by working with their school. You'll need to provide a statement that outlines the steps you have taken.

## Scholarship Application Form

Once you have a Place Offer, you can apply for a Scholarship by filling in the form [here](#).

We are working hard to build the number of scholarships available in our Scholarship Fund. If we do not have funding available immediately, we may be able to put you on a Scholarship Waiting List.

## Scholarship Application Form

- We award scholarships in December to start the following year. Applications open in Term 4.
- This means that if you are joining MindPlus during the year, there will not be any scholarships available that year. You may, however, apply for a scholarship in Term 4 for the following year.
- You can only apply for a scholarship once you have a Place Offer.
- For new students, we provide Scholarship Application Form details in Place Offers made during Term 4.

