



10 August 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

### **DECILE FUNDING REVIEW**

Many of you will be aware of the decile system that is used in New Zealand to fund schools. The Ministry of Education uses deciles to allocate funding to schools, to help them overcome any barriers to learning that students from lower socio-economic communities might face. The lower the school's decile, the more funding it receives. On a scale of 1-10 with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest, Merrilands School is currently a decile 7 school. This decile was decided in 2015. It was meant to be reviewed with the last census but given the low percentage of people that participated in the census, it was decided that this information was not robust enough to use to review deciles across the country. The government has said that the decile system will be abolished but this has yet to happen.

**On behalf of our Board of Trustees, I need your help to get our school decile reviewed as we believe that our current decile is not accurate and we are potentially missing out on funding that our school really needs to provide the very best it can for our students.**

#### **AS PART OF THIS REVIEW WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Attached is a Decile Review Survey that **we need EVERY family** in our school to complete. This information will be collated and used for the purposes of applying for a review to our decile.

The surveys are numbered. Numbers will be used solely by me to cross check that each family only responds once and to ensure that we hear back from our whole school community.

Completed surveys can be dropped into the returns box in the office. All surveys returned will go into the draw to win a grocery hamper. **All surveys need to be back at school by Friday 21 August.**

Thanks very much for your ongoing support.  
Ngā manaakitanga

Michelle Cronin  
Principal  
On behalf of the Board of Trustees

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